Roco smells bigger anomalies at DECS

STORY ON PAGE A2

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2001 ★ 82 PAGES 8 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 78 ₱15

Karina David gets Civil Service portfolio

BY DONNA S. CUETO

KARINA David, Joseph Estrada's former housing chief, is back in the government as chair of the Civil Service Commission.

President Macapagal-Arroyo announced David's new designation yesterday during a meeting with the University of the Philippines

KARINA/ A14

Kidnapped Greek found dead in Rizal

BY DAVE M. VERIDIANO

EXACTLY 38 days after a Greek shipping executive was kidnapped in Ermita, Manila, his lifeless body was found along the national highway in a Rizal town, according to a flash report which reached Camp Crame yesterday.

The discovery of the body came around the

KIDNAPPED/ A14

Coup talk made Wong walk

'The Marines are the dogs of war. They could be unleashed'

BY CARLITO PABLO,
ARMAND N. NOCUM
AND JULIET L. JAVELLANA

REAR Adm. Guillermo Wong, the Navy flag officer in command, was forced to resign allegedly because the top brass feared that the restive Marine Corps could be instigated into staging a coup against the Macapagal administration.

"(The Marines) are the dogs of war. They could be unleashed," a ranking military officer, who asked not to be named, said yesterday.

The officer said the Armed Forces leadership was "afraid that once provoked, the Marines might be used as the battering ram against the new government."

"There can be no other reason. What else can it be except the fear that the Marines could be enlisted in a coup to topple GMA (President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo)?" he said.

But Gen. Angelo Reyes, outgoing AFP chief of staff, laughed off this claim.

Explaining at a press conference why he took the side of the Marines against Wong, Reyes said: "In the question of the individual against the institution, the individual must give way. Institutions must be protected."

He said the Board of Generals would meet shortly to nominate a new Navy chief to be appointed by the President.

COUP/ A4

VAL HANDUMON

INFERNO BY THE BOULEVARD

Several floors of the Philippine International Convention Center along Roxas Boulevard go up in smoke during a five-hour fire on Thursday night. *(Story on Page A19.)*

Blas blasts Ani: Apologize to Loi

BY CHRISTINE AVENDAÑO

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto should apologize to former first lady Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada for falsely accusing her of withdrawing P110 million from Citibank NA early this month, Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople yesterday said.

"As a gentleman and respected public official, Ombudsman Desierto owes it to himself to apologize to Dr. Loi for making these allegations," Ople told a news briefing at the Senate.

Ejercito, a senatorial candidate, denied that she withdrew the amount on Feb. 1.

"I don't have that amount of money," the

BLAS/ A14

SEC asks DOJ to sue 140 for BW scam

BY ELENA R. TORRIJOS

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday recommended to the Department of Justice that 140 people and brokerage firms be indicted for manipulating the stocks of BW Resources Corp.

The recommendation was contained in the SEC's third and final report on the BW stock scandal that the regulatory agency filed with the justice department.

The SEC again implicated BW Resources shareholder Dante Tan, some of his associates as well as a host of brokers and their clients for violating the country's securities laws.

In a briefing with reporters, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista expressed the hope that the filing of the third investigative report would put the stock fraud case to rest.

"We hope it shall be the last of BW . . . and that it (price manipulation) will no longer occur under the new PSE (Philippine Stock Exchange)," Bautista said. "Let it be a lesson."

The scandal almost led to the collapse of the Philippine Stock Exchange as foreigners dumped Philippine stocks.

BW shares rose 5,000 percent to P107 on Oct. 11, 1999 from less than P2 at the start of that year on speculation that Macau casino tycoon Stanley Ho would invest in the company. The following day, BW shares crashed and have not recovered since. Yesterday, the shares of BW Resources (now renamed Fairmont Holdings) closed at 69 centavos.

At the impeachment trial of disgraced

SEC/ A14

HEROES of Edsa People Power I, from Feb. 22 to 25, 1986: Col. Gregorio Honasan and then Defense Minister Juan Ponce Enrile are today's villains of People Power II. Only Fidel Ramos has stayed the course. JOHNNY VILLENA

Sin 'prophesied' People Power I and II uprisings

BY NORMAN BORDADORA

JAIME Cardinal Sin "prophesied" People Power I in February 1986 and, almost 15 years later, People Power II, according to his spokesperson Msgr. Socrates Villegas.

Villegas, rector of the Edsa Shrine, told the INQUIRER that he was witness to the two occasions when the influential Archbishop of Manila predicted the ascent to power of former President Corazon Aquino and President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Cory, you will surely be President. Get your gown ready (for your oath-taking)," Villegas quoted Sin as telling Aquino

SIN/ A4

People Power III to pressure SC

BY ANDREA T. ECHAVEZ

A LITTLE over a month after Joseph Estrada's ouster, the Estrada Resign Movement (Resign!) formally "transformed" itself into the "People Power III" movement to pressure the Supreme Court into clearing the way for the disgraced leader's prosecution, arrest and eventual punishment.

The new "Movement for Justice and Social Transformation," as the multi-sectoral alliance calls itself, warned the high tribunal that its member groups would not hesitate to restage another uprising if the justices show signs of favoring the deposed President.

Resign! regularly mobilized thousands for demonstrations demanding Estrada's removal from office.

"The fight is far from over. What People Power II has so far achieved is the ouster of a corrupt and inefficient president. But the justice that the people have demanded has yet to be served," said Teodoro Casiño, Bayan secretary general and one of the convenors of People Power III.

Human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong, a private prosecutor in the impeachment trial, said he "hoped" the SC justices would not commit the same mistake that senator-judges made when they unwittingly triggered

PEOPLE/ A4

RP fears China building structures in Scarborough

BY DONA PAZZIBUGAN
AND DONNA S. CUETO

MILITARY authorities are on the alert because of fears that China is secretly building structures on the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the South China.

Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. yesterday said that the military had noted increased presence of Chinese fishermen on the shoal, which is both claimed by the Philippines and China.

"There is a wariness on the part of the military due to the increased presence of (Chinese) vessels, (that it) might be a prelude to something else as what had happened on Mischief Reef in the Spratlys. Before we knew it, there were structures (built on Mischief Reef)," Baja said.

"We have not forgotten Mischief Reef," he added.

Tension broke out between Manila and Beijing a couple of years ago after Philippine authorities dis-

RP/ A14

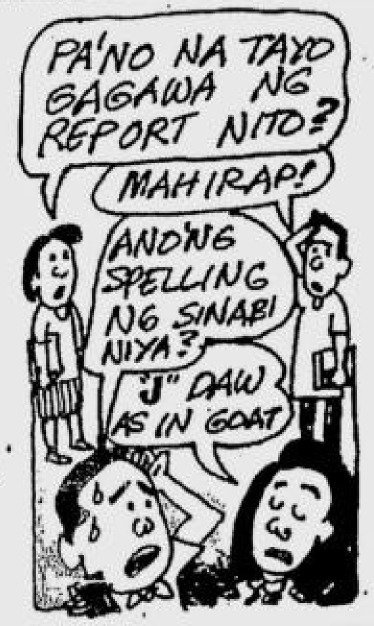
Visayans know what Gloria is talking 'gyud'

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

DAVAO CITY—For people who have grown accustomed to having a President based in "imperial Manila," the Visayan-speaking President Macapagal-Arroyo is a novelty.

In two of three official events here, the President addressed her mostly poor audiences in the dialect, Bisaya.

VISAYANS/ A14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Roco smells more scams

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT of Education, Culture and Sports has ordered the review of payroll records of all public school teachers nationwide in an attempt to unearth more anomalies similar to the recently discovered P4.3-million salary scam in Eastern Visayas.

Education Assistant Secretary for Finance Mario Bravo yesterday said the DECS accounting division has started reviewing teachers' payroll records in all 16 regions of the country.

This after Education Secretary Raul Roco had said the salary scam, which allegedly involved a payroll officer and a janitor at the DECS Central Office in Pasig City, could involve more people who might not necessarily be employed at DECS.

"It is possible outsiders were involved in the payroll anomaly," said Bravo in an interview at his office yesterday.

DECS documents showed that a payroll officer in charge of a division in Eastern Visayas issued and encashed supplementary teachers' paychecks totaling P4,294,822.52 from April to December last year.

The suspect, who prepared the list of tutors entitled to supplementary pay, had included "ghost" teachers on the list and caused double payments to be made to legitimate teachers.

The scam thrived because the payroll list and the paychecks submitted to the internal control unit of the DECS accounting division were handled by the janitor assigned to the office.

Roco said in a radio interview yesterday, the anomaly, which payroll officers discovered late last year, could only be the tip of the iceberg.

"This could only be the start," Roco said, adding that something will be done to change the system and sanction unscrupulous people.

"We are going to conduct a more extensive investigation," he said. "This thing doesn't just happen. It means there was a failure in the control system, and it could happen again."

The National Bureau of Investigation, on the invitation of DECS, has yet to investigate the matter, it was learned.

The P4-million scam came on the heels of the discovery of the two-percent commission certain DECS officials and employees were making for collecting and remitting loan payments of teachers to private loan companies.

Roco said DECS employees involved in the preparation of remittances to private companies as loan payments of teachers, are entitled to an incentive of two percent of the total remittances.

He said this was sanctioned by law.

However, he lamented that "we have become collectors for private companies. What is really wrong is that we don't even control it."

He said 200 employees are involved in this.

But, he said, the employees, including the secretary and undersecretaries, can only receive the equivalent of 50 percent of their monthly salaries as incentive.

"There is a limit. As secretary I get P35,000 in salary, so I am only entitled to P17,500 as my share of the commission," Roco said.

Roco said the remittances to the private companies are huge. Collections from Metro Manila alone could top P15 million a month, according to reports.

The education chief said the scheme was deplorable because the DECS employees, including himself, were being given incentives even when they had already been paid for their services with their salaries.

He added that the provident fund where the loan came from also served as the feeding trough of unscrupulous officials of the loan companies and certain DECS officials who used fake teachers, fake employees and fake identification cards to collect real money.

He vowed to clean up the department with the help of the teachers themselves.

Roco said he expects results in the probe into the P4-million salary scam in two weeks. *With Juan Escandor, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

NO WORRY

Common Man's Day in Malacañang yesterday finds President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo attending to Charito Domingo, 58, a hit-and-run victim who came to the Palace for financial assistance.

SC stand affects stock market but not 'functioning' President

DAVAO CITY—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is not at all bothered by the Supreme Court's declaration that it never passed a resolution declaring the presidency vacant.

In an impromptu late-night news briefing here Thursday, the President said what is important is that her administration is carrying on the operations of government.

"I'm functioning," she interjected when asked if the High Tribunal's declaration would affect governance.

Ms Macapagal said it is best that she leave the issue of her government's legitimacy to her lawyers.

She made the assurance that the continuing legal skirmish in the Supreme Court regarding her mandate would not adversely affect the rank-and-file in government.

She did admit, however, that the High Court's declaration has affected the stock market "a little."

Pressed to comment of the effect of the legal issues on her presidency, Ms Macapagal turned philosophical and said she was leaving it all up to fate.

"Well, time will tell. The important thing is we do our duty, we do our job," she said.

The Supreme Court has said it did not declare the presidency vacant when Ms Macapagal took her oath of office before Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. at the Edsa Shrine at noon of Jan. 20.

At the time, the People Power II uprising had just driven ex-President Joseph Estrada from power.

In a hastily called meeting that morning, the justices of the High Court invoked the ruling that "the welfare of the people was the supreme law," and that to avert a national crisis, then Vice President Macapagal was to be sworn in as president to replace the deposed Estrada.

Estrada's lawyers have been using the Supreme Court's declaration to question Macapagal's authority to rule and to insist that their client was still president of the country.

"To me, whatever the Lord will bring me, it doesn't matter. The important thing is I do my duty," Ms Macapagal said, in answer to questions she will last in the position longer than Estrada.

"I don't think of these things. I only think of what my duty is now," she said. *Armand N. Nocum*

Money at last at the Comelec

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE CASH-STRAPPED Commission on Elections finally got badly needed fresh funds to prepare for the May 14 elections after it received an initial tranche of P500 million from the Department of Budget and Management out of the P2.4 billion special budget allocated by Congress.

Comelec Commissioner Rex Borra said the P500 million, which had been deposited with the LandBank in Intramuros, will be spent on preparatory activities like the printing of election ballots and election forms.

Until the release of the P500 million, the Comelec was down to its last P70 million as a result of the delayed passage of the 2001 General Appropriations Act which Congress has yet to approve.

The lack of funds had forced the Comelec to shelve its two modernization programs, the Voters Registration and Identification System and the Automated Counting and Consolidation of Results System.

Borra said the printing of ballots would be prioritized as this had been delayed for several weeks now.

The Comelec has also started repainting old ballots boxes, which could still be used in the May 14 elections.

It plans to buy some 90,000 new ones for distribution in some of the 229,999 precincts nationwide.

Comelec executive director Mike Aguam said the Comelec might ask for additional funding of P1.9 billion from the President's Contingency Fund as the poll body needed to hire an additional 20,000 teachers and a still undetermined number of casuals for the elections.

Hunger strike ends a day ahead

POLITICAL prisoners are to end their hunger strike today, one day earlier than planned, even as Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said that freeing all 250 jailed communist and Muslim separatist rebels was out of the question.

"The political prisoners believe they had already sent the message during the three-day hunger strike," Dani Beltran, secretary general of the Ecumenical Movement for Justice and Peace, told the INQUIRER at the launching of the People Power III movement in Quezon City yesterday.

Even so, political prisoners, human rights and militant groups remained resolute in demanding the freedom of all 250 political detainees nationwide although they now admit that might be a remote possibility.

"First, they (the 73) cannot be released immediately. Second, we cannot release all political prisoners," Perez said in a radio interview.

"If you still want to pursue your hunger strike, we cannot force you to eat. You are not like children who can be force-fed," he said, addressing the strikers.

The Macapagal government has offered to free 77 political prisoners and has announced the names of 73 so far.

About 230 "political offenders" began a four-day hunger strike in prisons across the country on Thursday to protest the lack of immediacy with which the government was fulfilling its pledge.

Andrea Trinidad-Echavez

No Atong Ang deal for Perez in Hong Kong

HONG KONG—Hong Kong and the Philippines yesterday signed here an agreement concerning mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

Security Secretary Regina Ip and Philippine Justice Secretary Hernando B. Perez signed the agreement, which covers assistance to be offered by both places in serving documents, obtaining evidence, executing requests for search and seizure and transferring of suspected criminals.

It was the 10th of such deal signed by Hong Kong on international cooperation against crime, a government spokesperson said.

Meanwhile, Perez told radio in Manila that the deal "is for the investigation, prosecution, and suppression of crimes involving corruption and also narcotics trafficking."

"I was sent here by our government to sign an agreement between our government and the government of Hong Kong over mutual legal assistance in criminal matters," he added.

Perez denied he flew to Hong Kong to negotiate a deal with Charlie "Atong" Ang, a close friend of deposed president Joseph Estrada.

A number of Estrada friends have agreed to testify against the former leader, who is being investigated for alleged corruption. *AFP*

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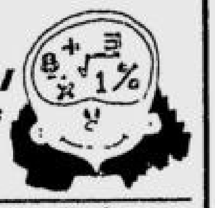

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Naia chief bars 2 aides who helped Laarni back

By TJ Burgonio and Cathy C. Yamsuan

FOR HELPING Laarni Enriquez sneak back into the country last Sunday, two purported aides of Senators Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Vicente Sotto III have been barred from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and will be facing charges.

Naia general manager Edgardo Manda said yesterday the two men—Jake Acuña and Ernesto Yabut—will be charged with usurpation of authority for escorting Enriquez through the airport arrival area without proper authorization.

Acuña is a former executive assistant at the Manila International Airport Authority and alleged former chief of staff of Oreta, while Yabut is reportedly an aide of Sotto.

Both senators have denied any links to the two, however.

"We're just wrapping up the investigation before we file the charges," Manda said.

He said it would be up to immigration authorities to file additional charges of human smuggling against the two who were caught on closed circuit TV escorting the mistress of ousted President Joseph Estrada after she arrived from Guam.

Manda cleared another man—Cpl. Ramon de Jesus, a former aide to Estrada—of involvement in the attempt to spirit Enriquez through Naia.

Manda said first reports De Jesus had also met Enriquez turned up negative in the investigation which was conducted by his office.

Acuña and Yabut were caught on videotape escorting Enriquez from the dignitaries' lounge to the customs area shortly after she flew in on a Continental Micronesia flight Sunday night.

The two were earlier asked to surrender their airport IDs. Acuña had his old airport ID while Yabut was reportedly issued a new airport ID on the night they met Enriquez.

Senators Oreta and Sotto have denied Acuña and Yabut were their aides, after airport officials said the two had presented themselves as staffers of the solons.

Acuña insisted he and Yabut did not breach airport security or commit human smuggling.

An immigration officer said charges of human smuggling could only be filed in cases of foreign passport-holders who do not clear immigration.

Acuña, who had at first denied meeting Enriquez, saw nothing wrong with her not clearing immigration and having her arrival recorded on her passport.

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ARREST ERAP

ERAP Estrada mascot caged in a fish trap.

ERIK ARAZAS

Fisherfolk 'catch' Erap

IT was the turn yesterday of militant fishermen to flock to the Don Chino Roces Bridge near Malacañang to demand that deposed President Joseph Estrada be jailed for destroying their livelihood by imposing laws and policies that left them with nothing except empty nets.

The fishermen threw a net at a mascot bearing Erap Estrada's likeness and placed him in a fish pen. They said Mr. Estrada is "a convicted rural folk enemy who has not served his sentence up to now" despite being the fisherfolk's "biggest catch so far."

The protesters, numbering about 100, mostly belong to the fisherfolk group Pamalakaya and its chapters in Bulacan, Laguna, Rizal and Batangas, and organizations of fishermen of Manila Bay, and the Laguna, Taal and San Pablo lakes.

Pamalakaya national chair Rodolfo Sambajon said Estrada's alleged crimes to small fisherfolk include his endorsement and full scale implementation of the Fisheries Code of 1998, the Agricultural Modernization Act and globalization.

Sambajon said President Macapagal-Arroyo's apparent lack of political will has given Estrada enough time to set up his defense, stir controversies and spur troubles. He accused the President of increasing the role and voice of the military and big businessmen in her government.

"Being the immediate beneficiary of People Power II, the President owes our people a huge political debt," Pamalakaya-Southern Tagalog chair Lamberto Cabrera said. "She must reciprocate by doing away with the Fish Code and other anti-fisherfolk and pro-monopoly policies." *Jerome Aning*

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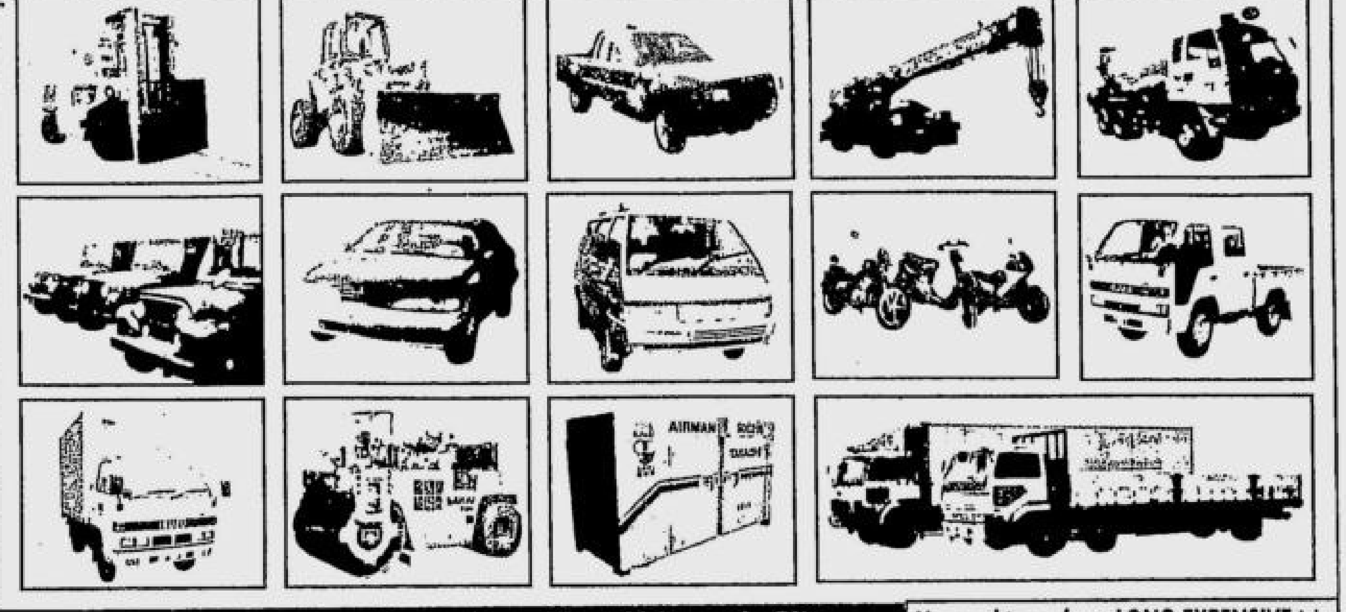

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Coup talk made Wong walk

(From page A1)

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon warned that this could "establish a precedent in the adoption of the mechanism of withdrawal of support as a means to resolve leadership controversies in the government."

But Biazon, chair of the Senate committee on national defense, said Wong's resignation was the "most honorable and manly" solution to his conflict with the Marine Corps.

In Davao City, the President said she had ordered Reyes to immediately act on the conflict between Wong and the Marine Corps.

Asked in an interview Thursday night whether she had given Reyes specific instructions, Ms Macapagal took a deep breath and said: "Well . . . I called him about the information I was receiving. I didn't give him instructions.

"I told him, 'I suppose you know that this is what has been happening.' And he said, 'I'm doing something about it.' So he periodically reported to me what he was doing."

Floating status

In a meeting at about noon yesterday, Reyes convinced Wong to simply relinquish his command instead of going on early retirement next month.

Wong told the INQUIRER in a brief phone interview that he would just go on "floating status" until December.

"If they force me to take another command, I will retire," he said.

Marine officers demanded Wong's relief after he publicly questioned on Feb. 15 previous irregularities in the purchase of supplies, including Kevlar helmets and assault rifles, for the corps.

They said discussions of financial irregularities in the presence of foot soldiers would affect the officers' credibility and effectiveness in combat.

Wong is scheduled to retire in December. He decided to resign his post effective March 1 instead of accepting Reyes' offer that he lead the newly formed Northern Command, which he viewed as a demotion.

Early yesterday morning, Wong delivered an emotional speech before the Navy's Philippine Fleet in Cavite City wherein he stressed the "need to challenge the status quo."

CHARLIE SACEDA

PHILIPPINE Navy model squadron march past the naval carriers during the change of command on Friday of the Philippine fleet at Sangley Point in Cavite.

"We cannot go on embracing what is common but unlawful, what is accepted but immoral," he said.

Wong conceded that his approach in trying to institute reforms might have been "brazen and rough."

"But my only intention is to rid this organization of malpractice especially when it unnecessarily endangers the lives of our sailors and Marines," he pointed out.

He said such reforms would no longer be implemented during his term, "which, as you are all aware of by now, has been abruptly cut short."

"At any rate, what I want to do is to plant the seed of a clean and honest Navy. I want to cultivate that seed in the heart and mind of every officer, in every man and woman who is a member of this organization," he said.

Power grab

The ranking military officer who disclosed the coup fears noted that Marines were prominently involved in the failed putsch of 1989.

He pointed out that it was the bloodiest of the seven coup attempts against the Aquino administration, and that it also took Marines to quell the attempted power grab.

According to the officer, Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Librado Ladia is identified with former Philippine National Police chief Panfilo Lacson, Ladia having served as the overall Mindanao chief of the Lacson-led Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force before he was appointed to his current post last year.

Lacson is one of the most trusted lieutenants of the disgraced former President Joseph Estrada.

In a statement, Lacson, now a senatorial candidate of the Estrada-backed Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, expressed disappointment over the turn of events in Wong's case.

"This is something that you cannot just sweep under the rug by placating the men in uniform with (Wong's) resignation," he said, adding:

"What about the charges of corruption in the procurement system? What if it is true and the military does nothing about it? Then this amounts to a cover-up by the leadership of the AFP, no less."

In an interview, former Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado said it was "disturbing" that a reform-minded officer like Wong would have to be sacrificed.

"It's a dangerous precedent and sends the wrong signal to the effect that it is not right to investigate anomalies and institute reforms," said Mercado, now also a senatorial candidate of the LDP.

Mercado said Wong's supposed brashness in articulating the need for reforms was only a secondary issue.

He said what was more important was that "one officer openly tried to put an end to the kind of corruption that has been tolerated for so long in the procurement process of some AFP units."

Replacement mechanism

Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, expressed concern that the leadership change in the Navy appeared to follow the manner by which Estrada was replaced.

"We saw this in the removal of President Joseph Estrada as an ineffective incumbent and his replacement by former Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Now the same mechanism has been used as a means to resolve the leadership controversy within the Navy," Biazon said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople said Wong's forced resignation could foster "dangerous schisms" in the military and defense establishment.

Ople called on the President to step in as Commander in Chief and prevent the situation from deteriorating.

Ms Macapagal said she had left it to Reyes to resolve Wong's case as he saw fit.

"He knows what to do, so I didn't have to instruct him. I just had to call him and say that I understand this is what is happening," she said.

At the press conference, Reyes said the Marines "are a proud unit with cherished traditions."

"They protect these traditions because these are important to them," he said.

Reyes did not say what these traditions were. But he said the Marines "were criticized or berated in public, and so this is what happened."

Chief of staff

The President said Thursday night that she would soon announce who would replace Reyes as AFP chief of staff.

Pressed by reporters to reveal her choice, she said: "Maybe not tonight. Maybe when I get back to Manila."

Ms Macapagal returned to Manila yesterday morning, after a two-day official visit in Davao City to address a meeting of Catholic bishops and Muslim *ulama*, kick off the start of the People Power I celebration, and distribute land to the landless.

Asked whether the military's involvement in two bloodless revolts had "politicized" it, she flatly said: "It's not politicized."

But Ople said the jockeying for the post that Reyes would vacate on March 17 has roiled the military waters.

He said the situation was "incredibly worsened" with Wong's case.

Ople urged Biazon to intervene "if necessary, to help facilitate the stabilization of the unruly situation in the AFP."

Biazon spoke with Wong before his conflict with the Marine Corps was made public.

The senator refused to give details, but said he met with the protesting Marine officers early this week and urged them to "stay calm."

People Power III to pressure SC

(From page A1)

People Power II.

He said the high court should avoid being perceived "as acting in a manner akin to the shameless and ignoble machination" by the 11 senator-judges who voted against opening the second envelope containing supposed evidence that Estrada stashed ill-gained wealth.

"If the Supreme Court, like the impeachment court, suppresses the truth . . . and shields Estrada from the consequences of his wrongdoing, this may ignite a People Power III," Capulong warned.

"It is also likely that President Macapagal-Arroyo may be forced to declare a 'revolutionary government,'' he added.

In a 17-page memorandum submitted to the high court on Feb. 20, Capulong said that the removal of President Estrada from office was the "direct exercise by the people of their sovereign power."

He claimed that not even the highest court in the land had the right to reverse the outcome.

What they want

A ceremony yesterday morning at Miriam College in Quezon City formally launched the movement aimed at guaranteeing the prosecution, arrest and punishment of Estrada and his cohorts.

Convenors of the multi-sectoral group said they would also undertake action to pressure President Macapagal into acting on seven other "people's demands."

"It's clear that only half of our objective has been achieved . . . We now face a much more difficult, complex and problematic phase of the struggle, which is to fight for justice and true social transformation," People Power III convenors said in a unity statement.

"When we started the campaign for Joseph Estrada's resignation, impeachment or ouster from power, we were under no illusion that (Estrada) alone comprised the entirety of society's problems.

"Nor did we take (Estrada's) ouster and Macapagal's installation in Malacañang as the solution to these problems," the group said.

Who they are

The movement's convenors include Sr. Christine Tan; Nini Quezon-Avancena; Fr. Joe Dizon; Reggie and Thelma Arceo; Gabriela's Liza Maza; lawyer Marichu Lambino; Carmen "Mameng" Deunida of the urban poor group Kadamay; doctors Cora Rivera, Reynaldo Lesaca and Carol Pagaduan-Araullo.

Other convenors are student leader Amie Dural; Maan Hontiveros; Bishop Tomas Millamena, Fr. Dominador Medina; Sr. Miriam Noemi Francisco, former Transportation Secretary Josefina Lichauco; Ruth Cervantes; Lito Ustarez of the Workers against Erap; Daisy Arago of the National Coalition for the Protection of Workers' Rights II; Clarita Paner of the League of Concerned Professionals; Prof. Lito Manalili; Cecille Joaquin-Yasay and artist Julie Po.

The alliance said that what transpired during the People Power II was a unique uprising that should not end with Ms Macapagal's installation.

"More than a change of leaders, we aspire for a fundamental change in the life of every Filipino," the statement said.

GMA tells Erap loyalists in Davao: Come, join us

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

DAVAO City—President Macapagal-Arroyo wanted to offer the hand of friendship to loyalists of her deposed predecessor, but officers of the Presidential Security Group kept her from reaching out.

A motley crowd of pro-Estrada demonstrators noisily proclaimed Davao City "Erap Country" as they hounded Ms Macapagal when she attended two official meetings here.

In a meeting between Christian and Muslim religious leaders in Marco Polo Hotel Thursday afternoon, the President said she nearly approached around 80 Estrada supporters gathered in front of the hotel, but said PSG officials dissuaded her from talking to them.

"I wanted to (shake their hands)," she told reporters in a late-night, impromptu news briefing Thursday.

She said that if she could hold out the hand of friendship to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) when she ordered a suspension of military operations, she could do the same to followers of Joseph Estrada.

"If we can do that to the MILF . . . we can do that to these people who still are dreaming of the previous administration," she said.

Ms Macapagal said she would have told the Estrada followers: "You who are there, come and join us. We're also calling you, the way we're calling the MILF."

"We're calling the MILF so there will be peace. We're calling you so there will be development (and unity) in Mindanao," she added.

In kicking off the commemoration of the 1986 People Power revolt at the Davao Rizal Park, the President said she was the first president to start the celebration rites outside of Manila, and that the act showed her concern for Mindanao.

Sin 'prophesied' People Power I and II uprisings

(From page A1)

sometime in February 1986.

The cardinal made the statement around a week before hundreds of thousands of Filipinos flocked to Edsa to support military rebels and to eventually topple the 20-year dictatorship of the late Ferdinand Marcos, according to Villegas.

While Sin forecasted Aquino's presidency a few days ahead of the fact, he predicted Ms Macapagal's succession a full month before the infamous vote of senator-judges to block key evidence at Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial, which led the opposition to take the campaign to oust Estrada back to the streets.

Villegas said that then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo, Renato de Villa and Aquino presented Sin with the United Opposition's plan to force Estrada to resign on Jan. 31, at the earliest, and Feb. 15, at the latest.

"That is too late," Villegas quoted the 72-year-old Sin as telling the three.

The powerful prelate "told them that (the resignation) would come around the third week of January. It proved to be prophetic!" Villegas said. Estrada left Malacañang on Jan. 20.

The rector said Ms Macapagal and De Villa, now her executive secretary, shook their heads in disbelief over Sin's reaction.

De Villa tried to seek Sin's approval by saying they could adjust the schedule to fit the cardinal's preferences, Villegas said.

He said that while Ms Macapagal and De Villa were trying to sort out the "resignation" schedule, Aquino said in jest: "Your Eminence, you mean (Estrada will resign) before my birthday (Jan. 24)?"

"You mean Jan. 25," Sin told Aquino.

"Your Eminence, my birthday's on Jan. 24," Aquino corrected him.

"Oh, (Estrada's resignation) will come earlier than that," Sin told the three.

15 years ago

Villegas said he was only in his first year in the priesthood in 1986, when Aquino went to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines headquarters in Intramuros, Manila, to solicit the bishops' blessings and support for her civil disobedience campaign against Marcos.

Aquino, at the time, was trailing Marcos in the snap presidential elections, according to the official tally of the Commission on Elections. Accusing Marcos of massive cheating, she was preparing to launch mass protest actions and a civil disobedience campaign.

"Cory was at the CBCP at that time to solicit the bishops' blessings for her boycott campaign. The Cardinal came down from the bishops' meeting and told her, 'Cory, you will surely be President'," said Villegas, who was already the Cardinal's secretary in 1986.

"How can one think of saying something like that during those times, when there was no sign of hope?" he added, pointing out that many Filipinos believed fighting the dictatorship with mass protests and civil disobedience would amount to nothing.

Sin's option

Villegas also recalled that Sin had the option to let the people stay on Edsa during two major prayer rallies against Estrada in October and November last year to pressure what the cardinal called the "immoral" president to step down.

During the Nov. 4 prayer rally at the foot of the statue of Mary, Queen of Peace, police estimated the crowd at 200,000—about the same number that gathered on Jan. 17 after the infamous Senate vote.

Villegas said he asked Sin, "Why don't we let the people stay?"

Sin "said, 'No. This is not the right time. We still need more time and prayers,'" Villegas said, referring to the possibility of calling for People Power II a week before the House of Representatives decided to impeach Estrada.

Sin had at least three opportunities to call on the people to launch People Power II, according to Villegas.

The first was the October mass at the Shrine, where he first called on Estrada to resign.

The second time was the mammoth Nov. 4 rally while the third one was the prayer rally on the Malate Church grounds at the start of the impeachment trial.

"We have (Sen. Francisco) Kit Tatad's mistake to thank for what happened next. In theology, we call his mistake a happy mistake. It is when a mistake is committed and it results in something better," Villegas said.

It was Tatad who moved for the Senate impeachment court to vote on the opening of the second bank envelope before Chief Justice Hilario Davide could rule on the matter.

He was quickly seconded by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, and the impeachment court voted to block the key evidence, sparking the fire that grew into People Power II.

Waiting for cue

"It was Tatad's mistake and (Sen.) Tessie Aquino-Oreta's dancing that made things happen," Villegas said.

Aquino-Oreta, until now, continues to draw sharp taunts for her spontaneous jig after she and 10 other senator-judges voted against the opening of the envelope.

Villegas was at his quarters at the Villa San Miguel when the infamous vote was aired live on nationwide TV.

"I was watching television. After that happened, I received a phone call. I was told that a meeting was called for by then Vice President Macapagal in Forbes Park," he told the INQUIRER.

He said he went to the meeting to represent the Cardinal.

"It was agreed upon that we would all gather the people at Edsa. The cardinal was just waiting for the cue for him to go to Edsa just as Mrs. Aquino was also waiting at her residence to go to Edsa," Villegas said.

He said that after the meeting, he immediately went to Villa San Miguel and told the cardinal that it was time to go to the shrine. "So the Cardinal dressed up and went on air over Radio Veritas," Villegas said.

People Power II had begun.

Free phone calls, concerts at Edsa

BY VOLT CONTRERAS

FREE overseas phone calls. Free medical and dental services. Booths for a gamut of concerns ranging from income tax paperwork to job placements.

These come-ons are among the government's planned crowd-drawers at Edsa tomorrow for the 15th anniversary celebration of People Power I.

The affair, traditionally marked by the political speeches, ceremonial marches, and late-afternoon musical shows, will "for the first time also become a day for consultation between the government and the people," according to Interior Secretary Jose Lina.

At the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration building at the intersection of Edsa and Ortigas Avenue, phone stations will be set up for relatives of overseas Filipino workers to make free overseas calls.

There's even a schedule for the free calls: 9-10 a.m. for calls to Europe, 10-11 a.m. for calls to the United States, 11 a.m.-12nn for calls to Asian countries, and 12nn-1 p.m. for calls to the Middle East.

Booths sponsored by all Cabinet departments plus the Bureau of Internal Revenue, the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police, will dot the sidewalks of Edsa, said Lina, overall chair of the consultation project.

These booths will be open to hear complaints from the public, he said. The BIR booth, in particular, will help anyone who wishes to file his income tax return well ahead of the April 15 deadline, he added.

There will also be a job fair and booths providing free medical and dental services at the POEA, Lina promised.

Prosecute 'Bong' Pineda, Gloria asks DILG chief

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM AND VOLT CONTRERAS

DAVAO CITY—President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she was giving Interior Secretary Jose Lina a free hand in prosecuting suspected "jueteng" operator Rodolfo "Bong" Pineda.

Speaking to a group of reporters here, the President clarified her dealings with the Pinedas whose family is rumored to be close to her.

In Manila yesterday, Lina said jueteng operators who had been hounding him since his days as Laguna governor have renewed their smear campaign against him because of the intensified drive against illegal gambling.

According to the President, her relations with the Pinedas merely concern the official functions of Lilia Pineda, the wife of Rodolfo, who is the mayor of Lubao town in Pampanga.

"The link is the official functions of Mayor Pineda, being mayor of my hometown," she said in a private dinner at the Paquito Dizon residence in Rolling Hills, Bacaca District, Davao City.

According to her, she cannot avoid working with Mayor Pineda who is president of the mayors league of Pampanga and vice president of the Mayors League of the Philippines.

Ms Macapagal was replying to a question on whether her dealings with the Pinedas were only "social" in nature.

It was presidential spokesperson Renato Corona who pointed to the President's having stood as godmother at the wedding of one of Pineda's children.

The President gave the assurance that her dealings with Mayor Pineda would not affect the Department of Interior and Local Government's efforts to prosecute Rodolfo Pineda for illegal gambling.

"He (Lina) has to do his duty as he sees fit," the President said.

"I don't meddle in his work," she added, explaining that this was the same attitude she takes with regard to other Cabinet members.

"If I'm on their backs all the time and I would be stopping them all the time, what for did I get them as Cabinet members?" Ms Macapagal said.

She added that although she calls their attention to some things, she leaves it up to them to find solutions to problems.

It is very rare for her to give specific instructions on certain matters to Cabinet secretaries.

One of those rare times came when she asked Lina to investigate new charges against Philippine National Police Chief Leandro Mendoza in reaction to a complaint from anti-crime crusader Carina Agarao.

When she does send her Cabinet secretaries newspaper clippings about an issue of concern, the President said she only draws "arrows" rather than make marginal notes.

"I usually don't put instructions there because I want to give them the responsibility and the accountability," she said. "I think if I were on their backs all the time, their initiative will be stymied."

So far, she has been "super satisfied" with the performance of her Cabinet, the President said.

Lina said his enemies were now also attacking his older brother, businessman Bert Lina, who plans to run and succeed him as Laguna governor.

The interior secretary said gambling operators whom he may have antagonized in the past have been "feeding" media with allegations that Bert Lina runs the illegal numbers game in Laguna.

"This is not new. Back in 1995 they already spread black propaganda about my eldest son's alleged links to jueteng. My son, whom they called a jueteng lord, happened to be only 14 years old at the time," he told reporters yesterday.

He said he and his brother are now being targeted in this "desperate" demolition job "because we're in this fight (against jueteng) together."

PINEDA

2 recruitment firms shut down; POEA sounds warning

THE PHILIPPINE Overseas Employment Administration yesterday renewed its call on job applicants seeking foreign employment to be doubly wary against illegal recruiters. The public advisory came as the POEA closed the offices of two illegal recruitment agencies, which had victimized hundreds of applicants.

First to be closed on Feb. 9 was the Grandeur Travel and Tours of Mabalacat. The travel agency was reportedly offering non-existent jobs in Brunei.

The second illegal recruiter closed down last week was identified as Liahona Insurance and Manpower Assistance Courier located at Room 202 of the Fair Trade Center, Ortigas Extension in Cainta, Rizal.

The POEA raiding team was assisted by the Criminal Investigation Division of the Philippine National Police.

Some 178 passports in the possession of the company were confiscated by the raiding team. The company had been telling applicants they need not undergo processing at the POEA since they were on direct-hire basis.

Several complainants claimed they were promised jobs as apple pickers in Australia. The company also boasted to applicants it could process applications for US employment.

The POEA called on other victims to testify against the two companies to ensure they could not recruit illegally again.

The victims were also told to bring with them all supporting documents to ensure the conviction of the officers of the two companies.

Act on Maynilad's huge losses now, congressman urges

ALAGAD Party-List Representative Diogenes Osabel has expressed alarm over the apparent "foot-dragging" by the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System's Board of Trustees on Maynilad Water Services Inc.'s pending request for an automatic Currency Exchange Rate Adjustment (Cera) to recover past currency losses.

"Maynilad's situation is so precarious that without recovering its foreign exchange losses, it would be forced to curtail operations or entirely close down," Osabel said. He added that the Board of Trustees could be held directly responsible in such an eventuality as the losses had amounted to over P2.2 billion from 1997 to 2000.

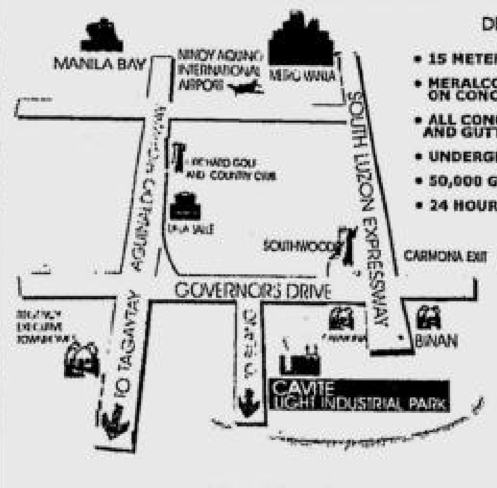
An urban poor representative, Osabel cautioned that, without financial recovery, it would be most difficult for Maynilad to continue to expand its services, especially to the poor who need it most.

Osabel also feared that the Board's idleness would discourage foreign investors and make government's effort to rebuild the economy even more arduous and difficult.

"We must come to the rescue of Maynilad before our water service in the metropolis is compromised," Osabel said. "I am sure President Macapagal-Arroyo will not be pleased with the picture of the MWSS Board sitting over another potentially disastrous crisis. The time to act is now."

Congressman Osabel and 76 other members of the House of Representatives recently filed Resolution No. 1884, urging the MWSS to act on the pending request of Maynilad for an automatic Cera.

Already in place in the monthly billings of other utility firms such as PLDT, Smart, Globe, Meralco, the automatic Cera mechanism would allow Maynilad to recover automatically, without having to petition the MWSS, any losses resulting from foreign exchange fluctuations.



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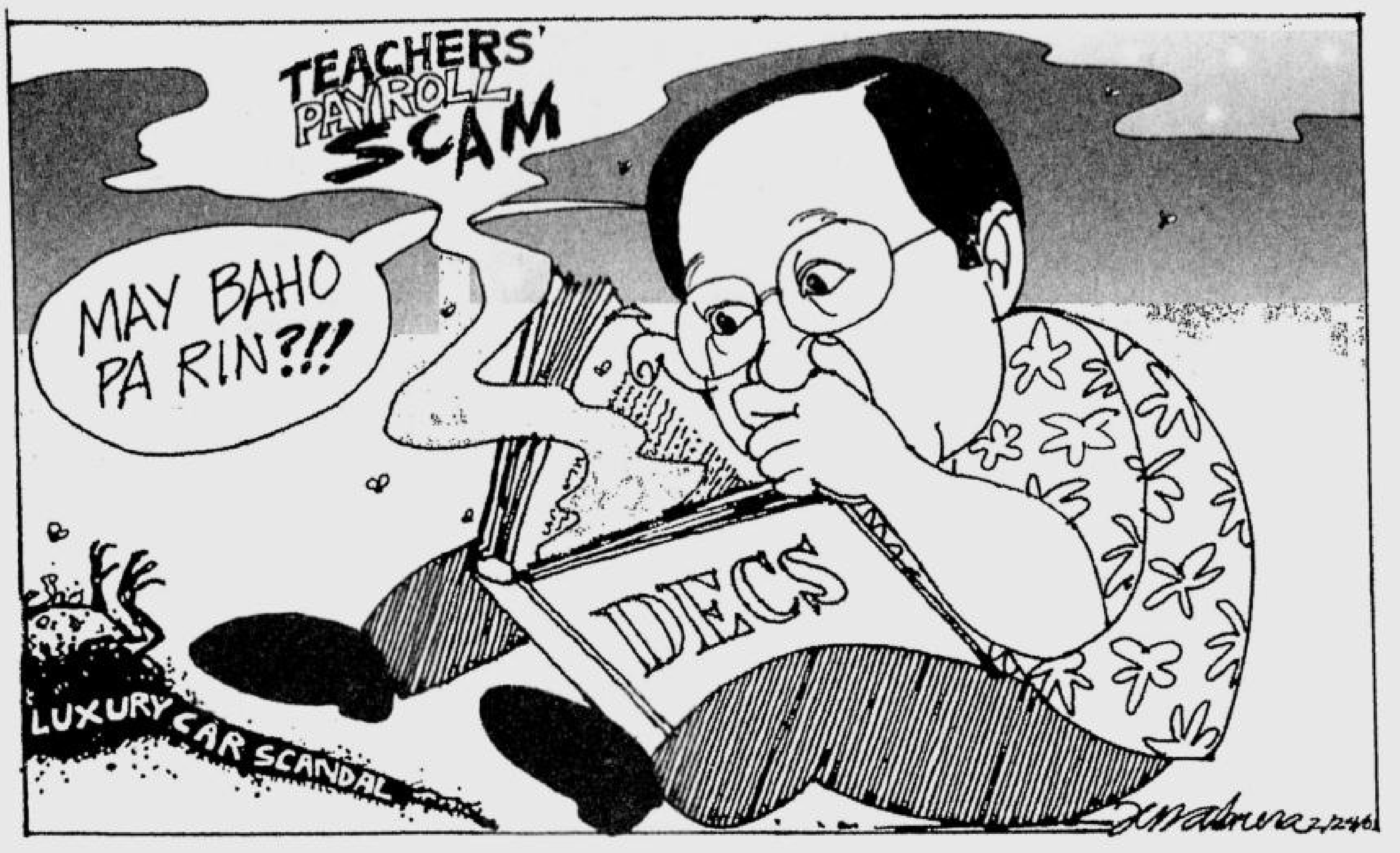

Sloppy scholarship

EDITORIAL

A LAWYER for deposed President Joseph Estrada has put forward the legal formula of a "dual presidency" to break the impasse caused by Estrada's challenge before the Supreme Court in which he claims that he is still President while Ms Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is merely an "acting" President.

Lawyer Pacifico Agabin, a former law dean of the University of the Philippines, has petitioned the high court to declare Estrada "President on leave" until the end of his elected term in 2004. He claims that the formula has a precedent. He argues that during the Japanese Occupation, the country had two Presidents—Manuel Quezon who established a government-in-exile in the United States after he fled the country; and Jose P. Laurel, who was installed as President of the Occupation government after Japan proclaimed Philippine independence in 1942.

The precedent cited is not apt. It has also dangerous political implications.

Before we examine that precedent, it must be emphasized that the main purpose in proposing this formula is to claim presidential immunity from suit for Estrada. Viewed from this vantage point, the proposal is mainly intended to get Estrada off the hook in the face of the criminal charges of plunder and corruption being readied by the Ombudsman.

Invoking precedents without knowing their historical context betrays shallow scholarship on the part of an ex-UP law dean who is thus led into making wrong and ridiculous arguments. The proposal would allow Estrada to keep the title of President but concedes that he could no longer exercise the powers of the presidency, given that President Macapagal is effectively exercising these powers and that the organs and instrumentalities of the State—especially the Armed Forces and the National Police—have transferred their loyalty to her government.

Under the proposal, we would have in effect a figurehead and fictional President (Estrada) and a reigning President (Macapagal). Even the most brilliant lawyers in this country would be hard put to find a constitutional prop upon which to create an arrangement that is not envisaged in the 1987 Constitution.

Agabin's sloppy research shows in that the proposal ignores the context of wartime events. The "dual" presidency took place during a war. Quezon transferred his government to Washington after the Japanese Occupation made no longer possible for him to govern. The government-in-exile was a symbol of Filipino resistance to the Occupation. The Japanese proclaimed an independent republic ahead of the planned transition to independence of the Commonwealth Government in 1946. They needed a government, so they installed a government under Laurel. The Laurel government represented one segment of the Filipino political elite, and Quezon's government, another. The war erected the dividing wall between the government-in-exile and the Japanese-sponsored government.

The consequence of having two governments was a divided country. The anti-Japanese guerrillas rallied behind the Quezon government and those local governments that pledged loyalty to that government. The Laurel government had limited scope. It exercised authority only in urban centers (the *poblaciones*) that were secured by Japanese garrisons. The guerrillas operated in the rural areas. The dichotomy was between the urban centers and the rural areas. There was a real constitutional crisis created by a national emergency. The war erased constitutional niceties. The Laurel government adopted its own wartime Constitution—not the Commonwealth Constitution of 1935.

Today, both Ms Macapagal and Estrada are locked in a dispute of constitutional legitimacy, using the same Constitution, that of 1987. The formation of the Laurel government prevented a vacuum being created. That government at least allowed Filipino leaders who had remained in the Philippines to shield the population from the rigors of the Occupation. There were no issues of corruption in the split during the Occupation. Quezon was not driven out by the people. Estrada was. The people did not install Laurel. The Japanese did. The people installed Ms Macapagal after throwing out Estrada for abominable corruption and glaring incompetence.

The circumstances behind the wartime split cannot be used as a precedent to justify a proposal whose purpose, stripped of its legal cover, is nothing more than an attempt to prevent Estrada from facing trial and going to jail. The precedent is irrelevant. Nothing is more damning to lawyers than sloppy homework.

Losers and gainers

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

RTC Judge Jesus V. Quitain of Davao City writes to complain about the purchase of billions of pesos of shares of the Equitable PCI Bank by the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System to the prejudice of their members. He has attached a copy of a letter he sent to Gov. Rafael Buenaventura of the Bangko Sentral on Jan. 23, 2001, cc Senate President Aquilino Q. Pimentel, detailing his objections.

"Fitting together the assorted news items and the impeachment revelations," Judge Quitain explains, "it appeared that Gokongwei and Lopez wanted to sell their PCIB shares worth billions of pesos but there were no buyers because of the huge sums involved. Equitable wanted to buy PCIB but did not have enough money for the Gokongwei and Lopez shares. The newspaper items said cronies brokered the PCIB-Equitable merger and made millions of pesos as commission through an ingenious plan.

"Out of the blue when the PCIB-Equitable merger was to be consummated, the SSS and GSIS bought about 25 percent of the shares of Equitable-PCIB. The billions of pesos paid by the SSS/GSIS were in turn used to pay for the PCIB shares which the Gokongwei/Lopez group sold at a premium price. After the merger and after the impeachment trial, the Equitable/PCIB shares dropped in value tremendously." (Actually, the SSS and GSIS have a stake of 23 percent and 12 percent, respectively, in the merger.)

As a result, he says, all GSIS and SSS members received less cash dividends last December. Billions of pesos of these corporations were tied up in the Equitable-PCIB shares they had bought when the funds should have been invested in Treasury bills, the money market and government bonds.

He warns that, for lack of funds, the SSS and the GSIS may not be able to grant its members housing loans or even substantial salary loans. Moreover, retirees this year may not get their cash gratuitous at once, even as the current monthly pensions may not be paid on time. Liquidity problems may also prevent full or immediate payment of health care benefits to sick members and their relatives.

The judge adds that even if the SSS/GSIS should sell their Equitable-PCIB shares for only P60 per share, the members of these corporations would be the losers by billions of pesos. The directors and trustees have failed to exercise the proper care and discretion in the investment of the funds for the benefit of the millions of public and private employees, retirees and pensioners.

"I am begging you," Judge Quitain implores Governor Rafael Buenaventura, "to stop the planned sale of the Equitable shares owned by the SSS/GSIS at rock bottom prices/at a great loss because it is unfair to us." He also asks the governor to find out how and why Equitable bought PCIB and the participation of the SSS and the GSIS in the transaction. No less importantly, he wants the governor to look into the commission or rebate rumored to have been paid to whoever brokered the merger.

The letter ends with the reminder: "As the Governor of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, you have a legal and moral obligation to protect the interests of the people in general and of the GSIS/SSS members in particular. Please help us."

I join in this plea. The millions of Filipinos who are supposed to be the beneficiaries of our welfare program, such as it is, have a right to know what actually happened in this suspicious transaction. There were whispers of anomalies in the involvement of the SSS and the GSIS, but they were squelched or denied by the past administration. The alleged irregularity could have been raised at the Senate trial of Joseph Estrada if his impeachment had not been aborted.

There are now fewer inhibitions in uncovering the truth of what is appearing more and more to be a sordid mess. Carlos Arellano of the SSS and Federico Pascual of the GSIS have offered to shed light on the deal, which is likely to implicate former President Estrada himself. According to Justice Secretary Hernando Perez, the two will probably be prosecution witnesses in one of the plunder cases being readied against Erap. The SSS/GSIS case may well be one of these.

The funds of the SSS and the GSIS are trust funds created for the benefit of employees from the government and private sectors who contribute part of their salaries each month against the day when they retire, die, or otherwise need financial assistance. The majority of its beneficiaries are the middle and low-income employees who rely on these institutions for a helping hand in times of need.

It would be an irony, indeed, if they were denied such assistance because of the inefficiency, or worse, of those vested with the fiduciary task of managing such funds. It would be the height of cynicism if the welfare of the intended beneficiaries were to be defeated by the avarice of clever manipulators whose paramount concern is their own graft.

Who is responsible for this transaction that has resulted in tremendous losses to the SSS and the GSIS and its millions of members? Who stood to gain from the ill-advised investment of the funds of these institutions in the Equitable-PCIB merger? What was the buying price of the shares that are now proposed to be sold for only P60 per share? How much in the millions of pesos did the brokers collect as commission; and more to the point, *who* were these brokers?

If the irregular transaction can no longer be rectified, the persons responsible should at least be punished. So many financial scandals have been swept under the rug before, but we should not let this one to be similarly hushed up. Governor Buenaventura may not be the logical investigator, though, given the misgivings of Representatives Joker Arroyo and Oscar Moreno about his part in the Urban Bank case. Perhaps Secretary Perez can handle the probe more effectively.

For a sound resettlement program

COMMENTARY

Charito Chiuco-Tordecilla
Institute on Church and Social Issues

AFTER THE EUPHORIA of Edsa II subsided, the attention now of the government as well as civil society is focused on housekeeping, on making a list of things to do. Urban poor organizations were among the first sectors to meet with the new President in a consultation held in the National Government Center last month. One by one their leaders took turns in handing to the President their agenda. Their voices exuded hope and optimism after the change of administration. There was the usual firmness in their demand for reforms yet an explicit weariness with presenting the same old concerns every time a new administration comes in. Their sentiments are not unfounded for the reforms they've been waiting for have been very slow to come about.

As political analysts have pointed out, the government is solidifying support at all levels of the society through various consultations all over the country. Yet, it must do more and act swiftly. While such consultations are indeed reflective of its sincere effort to involve civil society, it might be wise to anchor its actions on sound policies so that it can effectively reach those who are in need.

The housing sector, particularly the resettlement program, can be a good starting point. At present, the government through the National Housing Authority is directly administering resettlement programs in Bulacan, Rizal, Laguna and Cavite. These programs involve about 25,000 families—quite a substantial number. More families are expected to be affected by the different infrastructure projects of the government in the coming years. The amount of work that relocation and resettlement programs demand from the government is considerable. Given the involvement of the NHA in various projects, it faces constraints in attending to the many pressing problems in the sites.

An NHA official once defended the agency at a Senate hearing that looked into the problems of resettled communities in Erap City in Rodriguez (formerly Montalban). He cited the agency's inadequate budget for basic services.

A senior official of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, however, refuted his claim later on. It is dubious to hear that a project was being implemented without the corresponding budget. One might then ask the more important question of what the thrust is and where the priority of the government really lies in its housing delivery program.

If the government wants to be pragmatic, it should implement a sound resettlement program. Otherwise, its losses will only be greater. In many instances, families leave the resettlement site and go back to other parts of the metropolis—under the bridge or in other areas along the *esteros* and riverside. Also, if the areas from where people have been evicted are not secured from new settlers, the government will end up with the same problem all over again.

After seeing the NHA's report on relocation programs, one gets the impression that the orientation of work in the bureaucracy is toward meeting a deadline. For instance, in the case of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Project, the Estrada administration tried to beat a deadline of relocating more than 12,000 families living along the river within two years, ending in March this year. In October last year, the NHA reported that it managed to move half of the targeted number of families. However, the other more important component of the "job," which is ensuring that resettlement sites are actually livable, is brushed aside. Many people, including the media are appalled at the lamentable plight of those who have been relocated in resettlement sites.

Clearing the Pasig River easement and its development are the responsibility of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC), while the resettlement of evicted families rests primarily with the NHA. The PRRC set a deadline with little concern for the condition of families in the resettlement sites. Perhaps they expected the NHA, which is the lead agency responsible for it, to provide the needed services in the site. Families who have been staying in Kasiglahan Village I in Rodriguez, Rizal, for months still do not have lights in their homes. The contractor who has already been paid by the NHA to install the electrical posts failed in its job. In the resettlement site in Bitungol, Bulacan, the provision of basic services such as electricity has been delayed due to the many requirements imposed by the local government on the contractor. With insufficient electric power, water supply becomes a problem, too.

The lack of school buildings and teachers in Rodriguez is also a direct consequence of this lack of coordination within the government. The education department and the NHA kept passing the buck to each other.

In the first place, it was an oversight on the part of the NHA not to have included school buildings in its resettlement plan for the area. The NHA has said that funds had been allotted for the purchase of a bigger piece of land nearby so that enough schools can be built for the children of school age. In the meantime, the students are cramped into small classrooms.

The responsibility of all stakeholders in government resettlement programs, such as the local government unit, project manager (NHA) and developer or contractor must be clearly defined. Equally important is the need for a body that should be on top of things and take full responsibility for the project. Indeed, the role of the HUDCC in ensuring that everything is being properly coordinated is crucial.

The new administration must be familiar by now with the problems of resettled communities in the so-called Erap City in Montalban, Rizal, as well as in Bitungol, Norzagaray, Bulacan. These cases clearly demonstrate that resettlement programs as a whole and as part of the overall housing policy deserve serious attention from the government.

All its agencies, especially those that are building infrastructure such as the Department of Public Works and Highways, must realize that uprooting and resettling communities is a serious matter. It is far more important than constructing roads or bridges.

Citizens ask: Why is SC taking so long to decide?

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

WHEN Rep. Joker Arroyo had just won his first term in the House, he used to complain to this columnist that his mail would get interchanged with that of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, who was herself a new senator. The story goes that when he was contemplating a political career for the first time in 1992, Joker wanted to run for senator, but Gloria beat him to it. There couldn't be two Arroyos in that chamber (only the Osmeñas were crazy enough to try it). In 1995 Joker again wanted to run for the Senate, but Gloria was still there. Now that he is running at last for the Senate, it is well worth his wait. For even without all the publicity that the Senate impeachment trial generated for this star prosecutor, sharing the same surname with someone who is every day in the trimedia certainly makes Joker's campaign a lot easier. In fact, topping the senatorial slate could be a walk in the park for him.

* * *

The irony is that this former human rights lawyer, who has taken on all kinds of opponents in the martial law regime and who carried the ball for the prosecution in the tough issues during the impeachment trail, remains painfully shy. Joker didn't think anything of facing his law classmate Estelito Mendoza on TV before the entire nation, but he now confesses to having a terrible case of stage fright facing the campaign crowds. He never showed up at Edsa Dos, and I recall passing by a group of women during those days and overhearing one of them say, "*Ang gusto ko talagang makita ay si* Joker Arroyo. *Nasaan ba siya? Bakit hindi nagpapakita dito?*"

But he doesn't have to really campaign anymore—not with that name and the idolatry of the youth voters. Topping the senatorial slate would be a just reward for this guy who fought two regimes.

* * *

Citizens are upset that the Supreme Court is taking 30 days to decide on the twin issues of Joseph Estrada's claim to being "president-on-leave" and his immunity from suit. Why are the high magistrates taking so long to decide? citizens ask. They note that the failure to resolve the issues fast contributes to perceptions of stability.

I agree. The Court said that the order to Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to desist from filing the cases against Estrada before the Sandiganbayan is designed "to give the parties (concerned) breathing space in which to collect themselves," and thus giving the Supreme Court "a better climate in coming up with a decision unfettered by charges of 'prejudicial publicity.'"

That statement was obviously directed at Desierto, who is said to have incurred the magistrates' ire for divulging too much about the Estrada cases. That's understandable. But still, the citizens can't understand why the Court must take three weeks to decide, from the time the opposing parties are asked to submit their arguments. Each day that these issues are not resolved contributes to the business community's nervousness.

* * *

I recall the decisiveness with which the US Federal Supreme Court ended the instability that was being caused by the failure to resolve the question of who really won the crucial Florida election. The US justices ruled with a 5-4 vote that the time had come to stop the manual count of automated ballots and proclaim George W. Bush the winner, even though Al Gore would most likely have won had the count been continued, as votes from Democratic counties were involved.

US legal scholars criticized the Supreme Court for wading into a "state matter" and overturning the autonomous Florida Supreme Court's decision to push for a state-wide recount. They reminded the US Supreme Court that it only has jurisdiction over federal cases. But at that point, what obviously mattered to it was that maintaining the nation's stability was paramount. After the inauguration of Bush there were some partisan protests, but basically the American people closed ranks.

There is a lot of parallels to be drawn from the US Supreme Court's decision.

* * *

My neighbor Rina Jimenez-David wrote about the mystery of the continuing faithfulness of Estrada's mistresses to him. She cited Guia Gomez's dispatching her only son, JV Ejercito, to help defend his father, despite her own ailment (she is said to be suffering from multiple sclerosis). Another "proof" that few people know about is that Gomez called a vital witness for the prosecution during the Senate impeachment trial no less than 14 times from her sick bed, as he waited for his turn to testify in the Senate holding room. The witness refused to take the call since he knew she would try to persuade him not to testify.

Rina is correct: Would that Erap had been as faithful to his people as his women have been to him!

* * *

Three close friends of the former president have already executed affidavits indicating their willingness to testify about certain irregularities he had committed involving state funds. These are Mark Jimenez, former SSS chair Carlos Arellano and former GSIS president and general manager Federico Pascual. Stockbroker Willie Ocier is said to be also set to testify about the use of state funds in manipulation of prices of BW Resources stocks. There's also speculation that the purpose of the recent trip of Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to Hong Kong was to negotiate a deal with close Erap pal Atong Ang.

Obviously these people are all now concerned only about saving their own skins. But among them, it is said that the one whose turnabout hurts Estrada most is Chuckie Arellano, who belongs to the San Juan gang of Erap. Classmates in the old St. John's Academy in San Juan, they had maintained their friendship over the years.

* * *

The country's two "supersalesmen," former President Fidel Ramos and Tourism Secretary Richard J. Gordon, were together in Hong Kong late last week, and predictably, their schedule was like whirlwind, reaping maximum exposure for the Philippines. Ramos was there to grace the Far Eastern Economic Review awards night, and Gordon to promote tourism and link up the Philippines once more with leaders of the Hong Kong travel and hotel industry, business and media leaders and the Filipino community.

I ran into Gordon in Baguio City last weekend where he attended the PMA alumni homecoming and the Panagbenga 2001 flower festival and he told me about his recent Hong Kong visit, beginning with the Far Eastern awards, which proved beneficial for the Philippines as all the significant media and business leaders were there. Then there was the dialogue held by Ramos and Gordon, with key leaders of the 180,000 Filipinos working in Hong Kong to apprise them of recent developments back home. Gordon recounted the personalities he called on, beginning with Special Autonomous Region Governor C.H. Tung and leaders of the Hong Kong Travel Industry Council.

Earlier last week, our group of media women met over dinner with Gordon in Makati, and he told us about his plans to put the Philippines back on the tourist map. *(To be continued)*

Campaign concerns

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

RECENTLY, I snooped on an exchange of letters between two friends who both belong to our shared e-group.

The first salvo was fired by John Silva, whose working title is that of consultant at the National Museum, but who finds himself frequently embroiled in preservation controversies and environmental activism. It was as an environmental activist that John wrote a letter to Kiko Pangilinan, who as you all know is running for senator as part of the People Power Coalition. John wanted to know from Kiko why, if he was supposedly running on a platform of "new politics," he had posters plastered all over the metropolis in violation of election laws. Not only were the posters larger than the regulation size, said John, but they were also posted in public areas such as MRT posts and blank walls. The law states that campaign posters could be put up only in designated common poster areas and in front of private residences and buildings.

Central to the claim of "new politics" in this country, said John, is respect for the law and adherence to the principle that no one, regardless of position or power, is above the law. How could Kiko now claim to espouse "new politics" when he seems so ready to violate it?

To his credit, Kiko replied promptly to John's concerns. If his posters were being plastered all over the metropolis in defiance of regulations, he said, it was done without his knowledge or consent. But he understood the dilemma of his supporters, Kiko noted. At this late date, the Comelec has yet to designate common poster areas, so candidates and campaigners assume every place is a designated poster area. Already, there are proposals to declare major thoroughfares common poster areas, Kiko added.

Still, in response to the points John raised, Kiko said he would instruct his campaign staff to adhere strictly to Comelec regulations, especially those on the size of campaign materials. Even better, he was forwarding John's letter to all other candidates on the PPC, so they would know how constituents feel about candidates violating regulations even before they're elected to office.

I wonder, though, if John has written similar letters to candidates on the "Erap" slate, especially Dong Puno and Ping Lacson whose deep campaign reserves are showing in the sheer number and variety of four-color posters strewn about the city.

* * *

"THERE'S plenty of parking space," organizers of the WWW "Win with Winnie" organizing meeting said in their flyers. But Thursday afternoon, not only was the parking lot of St. Andrew's Church filled to capacity, vehicles also spilled over to Reposo Street and nearby corners.

Entering the parish hall, one understood the overflow of parked vehicles. The air-conditioned hall as well as the hallways outside were filled to bursting. So great was the crush that the air-conditioning was no longer working, or maybe it was just the heat of excitement generated by a meeting of people genuinely fired up by a candidate they believed in.

To my surprise, Mareng Winnie herself was there. Over breakfast the day before, Winnie said she had already taped a message for the meeting, since she was going to be in Bicol. "But she was told that she could not NOT be here, since even Tita Cory was coming," a supporter told me. Tita Cory was there all right, resplendent in yellow. Earlier, she had shown off her unique contribution to Mareng Winnie's campaign, a painting she had done, to be auctioned off to raise funds for Winnie's Senate run.

There were familiar faces: Maita Gomez who has been designated Metro Manila chair for WWW; the leading lights of the Concerned Women of the Philippines, including Tita Nini Quezon Avanceña; singer Kuh Ledesma, Mel Alonso of the TOWNS Foundation, and Bambina de Leon Buenaventura, a classmate from high school who urged me to "fire up our batchmates to participate in this year's elections."

Even more heartening were the many new and obscure faces, some of whom approached just to tell me they were there because they read about the affair in this space. One of them, Elly Villafor, said she had come all the way from Occidental Mindoro!

As a neophyte on her "virgin run" for elected office (though she has served in the Aquino Cabinet), Mareng Winnie faces long odds, indeed. But if the turnout for the WWW meet is any indication, and if the momentum spills over to the rest of country, we may yet end up with one hell of a woman and hellcat in the Senate.

* * *

WITH Laarni back, could Joy be far behind? Of course not, as the "baby" among Erap's harem sashayed into the country, sweeping through the immigration and customs counters without need of wearing a hood over her visage.

But why could Joy freely enter the country while her "ate" in the Erap sisterhood had to skulk about the Naia, escorted by factotums courtesy of such Erap chums as Senators Tessie Aquino-Oreta and Tito Sotto? Because Laarni Enriquez has been named as a conspirator in the graft and corruption and plunder cases being readied against the former president. Joy, in contrast, has yet to be named among those lending their names to bank accounts containing the Erap-lode.

Which takes us again to *senadora* wannabe Doktora Loi. "You do love sticking it to the Doktora, don't you?" my friend Boy Tripon chided me at the WWW meeting. Let me make one thing clear. My heart bleeds for the long-suffering Doktora Loi. But women have been men's doormats, or allowed themselves to be treated that way for far too long. It's no longer funny. Especially when your husband is set to have the time of his life while you're hard at work campaigning on his behalf.

To be fair

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

(The following is the conclusion of the letter of former Flagships Project Secretary Robert Aventajado, in response to my column last Feb. 10.)

"ISSUE No. 3: The previous administration rushed to dump Manila's garbage on Semirara Island without regard to legal, technical and environmental concerns.

"FACT: In light of the CA decision and the impending closure of the San Mateo landfill by Dec. 31, 2000, Chair Jejomar Binay and Metro Manila mayors met several times (Oct. 24, Nov. 10, Nov. 15, Nov. 17, Nov. 20) to map out contingency measures, including the construction of a temporary waste facility. On Nov.27, the MMDA sought authority to negotiate for an interim facility, which was approved by the Office of the President. *(Sorry, but by that date not many people who pay taxes trusted that office or for that matter the MMDA.—***AMH***).* Pro-Environment, which had earlier submitted the lowest bidding fee, was considered but it could not prepare its site by Jan. 1, 2001. On Nov. 28 the MM Council approved the recommendation to negotiate with DMCI-R-II Builders and Waste Action Recycling for the setting up of an interim facility in Semirara and Mariveles, Bataan, respectively.

"Semirara Island was found to be the more technically, financially and environmentally acceptable site. Moreover it was ready to take in Manila's garbage at a moment's notice, considering the impending closure of San Mateo by the end of December 2000. The proposed site was a 20-hectare area within the 500-hectare coal mining operations of the proponent, DM Consunji Inc. The site contains lime and coal, which act as natural filters, and is some 100 meters above the water table.

"DMCI submitted a certificate of willingness to host from Antique local officials (governor, mayor and barangay captain), which was a requirement to join the bidding. It had also secured an approval from the DENR for its environment management plan. It was the proponent's responsibility to secure the required environmental clearance certificate (ECC) and acceptance by the host community. DMCI was about to start work on these two requirements when a public outcry against the plan spread. Fearing for their political lives, Antique officials made a sudden turnabout and joined the protest against the project. The protesters eventually secured a TRO from the Antique RTC, which halted the project.

"For the record, no garbage was dumped on Semirara and no advance payments were made by the government to DMCI. The Semirara project was never intended to be a permanent site; it was planned only as a temporary facility for up to two years while the permanent site was being finalized."

From what I can gather, Jancom, the foreign consortium that won a bid with the Ramos administration to set up an incinerator, blocked the efforts of Aventajado and the MMDA to solve the garbage problem. However, if the Clean Air Act bans the use of incinerators, why would the Pasig Regional Trial Court bother with Jancom's protest? Or knowing the reputation of our courts, is that a stupid question?

There appears to be a lack of transparency in all these proceedings. In speaking of landfills, for instance, do we mean the type of dumping practiced in Smokey Mountain or do we mean that a layer of soil treated with enzymes would cover the garbage every time this is transferred until such time as the landfill is level with the surroundings? Would then the area be planted to grass and trees and a park evolve? What benefits did the people in Semirara stand to gain and did the DENR answer in a satisfactory manner the danger posed to Boracay?

In the end, perception is everything. Whether it was engineered or not, if people who pay their taxes (i.e. those who don't ask government for anything more than for it to do its job properly) perceive a project to be tainted, chances are the project cannot succeed.

The lesser evil

PEOPLE say there is a never-ending battle between good and evil, but good always triumphs in the end. Sort of like a fairy tale, with the heroine and her prince charming living happily ever after.

In politics, the battle is never between good and evil. It is always evil versus lesser evil. The voting public is left to choose between big-time Satanism and casual acquaintance with the monarch from Hell.

Call me a cynic, a jaded, callous nobody out to destroy the names of virtuous politicians, whose purpose for running for office is to help the people, do some astonishing deed to boost the ailing economy, eliminate graft and corruption, blah, blah, blah. But when I hear such promises, my eyes just keep rolling as if they're never going to stop.

YOUNGBLOOD

Jean Charisse A. Arboleda

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—***Ed.**

I used to be idealistic. A public official with a slightest connection to drugs or who is rumored to keep mistresses turned me off. That was completely unacceptable.

I had this grand plan of writing to my favorite Filipino-Chinese ex-mayor to express my admiration for his integrity, rectitude and character. I even wanted to work for his office as soon as I graduated. I thought he was a "model politician," if there ever was one.

Don't get me wrong. It was not because of him that my idealism vanished. But I think he should have stayed with Erap, if he was so inclined, and should not have defected to the opposition at the last minute to join the bandwagon. He was merely a victim of circumstance and a very immoral administration whose leader seemed to be Satan himself.

See, I'm already making excuses for my favorite ex-mayor although I know what he did was wrong. He should have resigned before anybody else did. *Nasayang ang boto ko sa kanya.*

Anti-Erap groups came together to unseat an immoral president but that didn't mean they were avid supporters of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. Most people I talked to were either turned off by her withdrawal from the presidential elections in 1998 or by her I-can't-wait-to-be-president act.

This isn't to discredit Ms Macapagal, but it has to be said that she wasn't exactly the person people wanted as the next president. She wasn't, but it was "better her than a womanizing gambler and thief." The Filipinos were willing to take anybody—anybody but a *jueteng* lord who lied through his teeth.

It remains to be seen what Ms Macapagal can do to save an economy that looks ready to give out its final breath. No one can say if she will suddenly turn into this monster the Filipinos have had to put up with many times before.

Filipinos can't help but be skeptical. During that farce of an impeachment trial of the gambler and womanizer, I easily got into arguments when I felt that my principles and my so-called idealism were being compromised. One of my classmates would tell me she didn't want to take sides because all politicians were of the same corrupt, exploiting mold. I would tell her that they were all alike, of course, and there was nothing we could do about it except opt for the lesser evil. *C'est la vie.*

What is happening here? Something must have happened to make people lose faith in the system. It seems as if Filipinos are lowering their standards of morality to "accommodate" these politicians, instead of the other way around. We seem to be telling ourselves that no matter whom we pick to govern us, whether he be the grand master of evil or his second-in-command, he or she will eventually steal from the national treasury anyway. I have always thought that politicians should strive to be good, moral leaders before, during and after their term.

I hated the Estrada administration because of the disgustingly blatant, *garapal* thievery that went on. That was obscenity at its worst. I shared the indignation of all the ralliers who went to Edsa over the large-scale thievery that went on involving unimaginable sums of money. Billions of pesos deposited in different banks! Mansions worth hundreds of millions! I never thought the Philippines had that much money.

I am willing to forgive the two previous administrations for their own sins because they were able to conceal them from our people's already fatigued eyes. Deceive me, but deceive me in a way that I don't have to feel bad about it.

Choose the lesser evil—is that all we can ever hope for? I see myself about 20 years from now telling my kids to just choose the lesser evil and vote for the person with the minor-league sin, the one known to be guilty of some small-time immorality. It's either you vote for Lucifer or you go for one of his henchmen. That's about the best advice I can give them? All because we do not have quality candidates. For shame!

When Edsa Dos happened, I realized that there may be hope after all. There are people (lots of them) who still think it is immoral to have more than one wife and that it is unacceptable for a leader to be on friendly terms with shady characters and to steal, cheat and lie. He should have known that being largely Catholic, Filipinos cringed every time he boasted about his mistresses, his shady cronies and other disreputable personalities, and his many indiscretions.

Edsa Dos was bound to happen, and happen it did. This may be the start of the real battle between good and evil. No lesser evils. No in-betweens.

Jean Charisse A. Arboleda, 21, is a communication arts senior at the University of Santo Tomas. She joined the Jericho March and was regularly at Edsa following what she called the Day of Betrayal.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Graft case vs Ilagan mayor

IN MARCH 1999, the Isabela Anti-Graft League filed a complaint for violation of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act against Ilagan Mayor Mercedes Uy with the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for Luzon. The complaint was based on the findings and recommendation of the audit team of the Commission on Audit's Special Audit Office.

The COA report said that nine checks totaling more than P900,000 were issued by the municipality of Ilagan to persons and enterprises it was doing business with. However, the checks were deposited in the mayor's account at the Ilagan branch of the Philippine National Bank. All the checks were issued between May and October 1993, but deposits were made up to January 1994.

On July 8, 1999, nine counts of graft were filed against Uy with the Sandiganbayan. The cases were assigned to the Fourth Division.

On July 23, the mayor paid a cash bond of P180,000. She immediately filed a motion for reconsideration.

In her motion, she said that the manager of her hardware, which has a bank account in her name, was requested by the payees to replace the checks with cash. The manager accommodated these requests without informing her. She pointed out that the dorsal portion of the checks did not bear her signature, indicating that she did not endorse the checks.

On Oct. 19, 1999, the Office of the Special Prosecutor recommended the dismissal of all the cases. In their memorandum, the special prosecutors said that Uy was engaged in the business of encashing checks prior to her election as mayor. They noted that "(this) practice is recognized by our jurisdiction."

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto approved the dismissal of the cases on Feb. 20, 2000.

On March 14, 2000, the prosecution filed with the Sandiganbayan a motion to withdraw the cases, citing the Ombudsman's decision.

The Isabela Anti-Graft League filed its opposition on April 10.

Case status: On May 22, 2000, the Sandiganbayan granted the motion to withdraw the information filed by the prosecution. The cases were all dismissed.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

Incredible US hypocrisy

THIS is in reply to a commentary that appeared in your paper on Feb. 27, 2001 by Dmitry Zaks. The article stated that the United States accused Russia of "actively supplying 'rogue states' like North Korea and Iran with sensitive missile technology," which Russia denied.

It is disheartening how Americans have the gall and hypocrisy to accuse others when they are doing the same thing. The United States is the largest supplier of arms in the world, not Russia, dollar for dollar. It has clandestinely supplied Israel, Japan, Taipei, to mention a few, with sophisticated armaments, especially aircraft.

The Americans have triggered an arms race in Asia. China responded to American aircraft in Japan by upgrading its airforce. Asia is becoming a tinderbox because of American arms proliferation. They are endangering our lives. And they hit two birds with one stone by earning billions of dollars in arms sales in the process. Now they have the gall to accuse others.

It is understandable that the United States is worried that North Korea or Iran may use these new weapons against them in a future confrontation. But why is the United States not worried that its own supply of arms to Israel, Taipei and Japan will endanger others? They see the dirt in other people's eyes but cannot see the log in their own eye.

The US double standard is disturbing because it is a vastly superior superpower which will not give a millimeter to already very weak nations.—**BERNARDO V. LOPEZ, eastwind@edsamail.com.ph**

Getting to the root causes of violence

I WOULD like to take exception to your editorial last Sunday (PDI, 2/11/01) titled, "Gun control—now." The last sentence of the article reads: "The spiral of violence in Philippine society can be arrested by just one single step: restrict the carrying of guns."

This statement is oversimplistic. It is like saying that all the Filipinos will prosper and never go hungry again with the ouster of Erap.

Let us assume for a minute that all the guns in the world were destroyed, even those of the police and military, would that mean that there will be no more violence? I don't think so. Last year, a man was robbed by three burly men, who threatened him with physical harm if he didn't give them his valuables. They were not armed. They merely intimidated the man. Do we now ban the use of knives or control the growth of our kids so that they will be less intimidating?

In the editorial, you also stated: "Guns have the potential to maim and kill." Let me correct you. Guns do not kill people; it's people who kill people. The spiral of violence here in the Philippines and anywhere in the world will not stop with the restriction of gun ownership or even the abolition of guns.

Kids today learn a lot of things from TV. Most are good things, but unfortunately they are also exposed to violence in TV programs like "Animé." A study showed that kids exposed to this kind of programming are more restless and are more prone to commit violence.

I'm not against restricting the carrying of guns. All I'm saying is, let's look deeper into the problem of crime and it's prevention. Let's target the root cause and solve it. In this way, even if guns are freely available, there will be no violence.—**CARLOS V. TAN, cvtan@petron.com, PBR Housing Compound, Limay, Bataan 2103**

Increase in SLEX toll rate opposed

I AM a resident of Moonwalk, Parañaque City, and a frequent user of the South Luzon Expressway, particularly the Magallanes-Merville portion. I oppose the proposed 300-percent increase in toll rates for the following reasons:

- The West Service Road is a one-way road going toward Magallanes from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Residents of Merville, Moonwalk and nearby villages, have no other practical alternative than to take the expressway if we are going home during this time.
- Those using the Merville exit should not be charged the same rate as those exiting in Bicutan, considering that there is a difference in distance of about two kilometers. The difference in rates may be minimal to some, but to other regular users like me, the difference in the long-term impact will be substantial.
- Since the rate was increased to P10.50 for the Magallanes-Bicutan portion, there hasn't been any physical improvement to merit such a gargantuan increase. In fact, the traffic situation in the expressway has worsened, particularly during rush hours.
- In light of the economic problems that we are facing, we cannot afford a 300-percent increase in the toll rates. The rates were earlier increased from P1 to P10.50. That in itself was already a difficult burden, considering that this is a daily expense for us. We use the expressway not because we want to, but because we are constrained to do so. Increasing the rates by more than three times is just not right.

I hope that the board will consider our situation, as well as that of the millions of motorists whom the expressway is supposed to serve. For the good of the public, I pray that the board will reject the proposed rate increase.—**MA. CRISTINA D. EVANGELISTA, 16 E. Rodriguez Ave., Moonwalk, Parañaque City**

Chavit deserves our gratitude

THIS is in reaction to the front-page report of the Northern Luzon Bureau in the INQUIRER last Feb. 5, 2001 headlined: "Chavit still a villain to some people in Ilocos Sur."

I am an Ilocano. I am from the province of Cagayan. And I am intrigued and puzzled by the stand of the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa) and the local chapter of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

During the time when it was detrimental to life and limb for anyone to say anything against the unlamented administration of President Joseph Ejercito Estrada, one man had the guts and the evidence to come out and expose the venalities and corruption of Erap. This man was Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson. (At that time, where was Sisa?) Because of Singson, the rest of the nation was galvanized into action to demand the resignation of Estrada.

Are the people of Ilocos Sur not proud of what he has done for the country? I am sure that a great majority of our fellow Ilocanos in Ilocos Sur feel as proud as I am for what Singson has done to free our country from a corrupt president. How about Sisa?

May I point out that if the likes of Mark Jimenez, Atong Ang, Jaime Dichaves and other cronies are being considered to be granted immunity from suit when their only purpose is to save their own skins, doesn't Singson deserve immunity for having been the first to expose the corruption and abuses of Erap while he was still a sitting president?

We, Filipinos, are the beneficiaries of what this brave Ilocano has done. Truly, he deserves gratitude from all of us, especially from the people of Ilocos Sur, including the members of Sisa and the local IBP chapter.—**ALEXANDER L. BULAUITAN, national president, Aalagaan ang Ating Kalikasan, Solana, Cagayan**

Give GMA some space

I HAVE just finished reading Donna Cueto's article about President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's seeming aloofness toward members of the press, which the writer attributed to, of all things, a bad hair day. It is rather annoyingly typical, don't you think, to trivialize a woman's accomplishment by immediately zooming in on an aspect of her looks? Remember Cory Aquino's yellow dress, and how people criticized her un-Imelda-like lack of fashion sense? Please. Ms Macapagal has gone through nerve-busting times lately, and for this reason one can hardly blame her if she has decided to take a break from the media for a while. As potent a disseminator of information the press is, it also has the capacity to destroy the mind's equilibrium (information overload, anyone?).

Neither do I find any fault in her decision to grant interviews primarily to foreign (i.e. "Western") journalists, although some might consider this a form of snobbery—and by this I mean no offense to the INQUIRER staff.

First of all, the Philippine media have been saturated with this political drama for quite some time and Ms Macapagal was probably thinking she should give the matter a hiatus. Second, how many people in the Western world know where the Philippines is? As a resident of the United States, I can definitely say that most Americans don't give a hoot about little Third World countries. All she wanted to do was to call attention to our country's plight so the world will recognize us.

All I'm saying is: cut the woman some slack. She obviously is an intelligent woman who shuns crap when she smells it—intelligent enough to know not to spread herself thin, something that many women (and especially Filipinas) are expected to do.

In fairness to the writer, I think her acknowledgement of Ms Macapagal's commendable deeds is noteworthy.

Filipinos should get down on their knees and thank God they don't have George W. Bush as president.—**CORINNE LAURICE PULICAY, Yonkers, NY, USA**

LETTERS

Contrasting characters of presidential kids

YOUR article on Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo checking-in at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport without much fanfare was certainly good news. Particularly since it provided a sharp contrast to how Jude Estrada behaved when he went to Cagayan de Oro and piled up bills that he did not pay for after his father became president.

If breeding is to be looked at, the two incidents would certainly speak of the difference between Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Loi Ejercito (who is now dreaming of becoming a senator).

Luli is probably the example of "the taller the bamboo grows, the more it bends," while Jude is the personification of the warning "beware of the man who rises from the dung heap."—**SHELDON TATE, tyranico@pacific.net.ph**

Parking troubles in Libis strip

THERE is a text brigade currently calling for a boycott of bars on the Libis strip (E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Quezon City) particularly Crocodile, Pier 1 and Gerry's Grille. These establishments and some other bars on the Libis strip have very little parking space or no parking space at all for their clients. They offer valet parking, but guess where they park the cars? Right smack on E. Rodriguez Avenue itself!

Every night, traffic builds up from the intersection of Greenmeadows Avenue and E. Rodriguez Avenue, from Outback Steakhouse all the way up to the Starbucks Coffee shop, if you are going to Quezon City and from the Mongkok Restaurant area all the way back to Outback Steakhouse, if you are coming from the opposite direction.

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, the traffic jams are worse in this area, sometimes starting from the Ortigas Avenue-E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, intersection, since the cars are already double-parked starting from Greenmeadows Avenue.

Cars parked on the street, occupying two lanes on weekends, do not only cause traffic jams. They also serve as "*tambay* areas" for the youth who text away on their cellular phones, also on the street. Honk your horn as loud and as long as you can and they wouldn't budge an inch. The cars too are exposed to the elements, thieves and other cars.

There is a pay parking area right next to Honda Cars Pasig but no one seems to park there. Maybe because there is free parking on E. Rodriguez Avenue.

This area used to be the "drag strip" for rich kids who used to race here in the wee hours of the morning. But due to the vigilance of concerned citizens, the races have stopped and "No Drag Racing Allowed" signs have been put up along the strip.

Let's try to help the people inconvenienced by the callousness of these establishments who use the street as a parking area for their customers even if "No Parking" signs have been put up along that street.—**BONG S. CABRERA, bong_cabrera@edsamail.com.ph**

'Successor Generation' coming of age

AS a party mate of Kiko Pangilinan in the Liberal Party, I would like to respond to Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's column last Feb. 12, wherein she batted for the non-inclusion of Pangilinan in the senatorial ticket of the Edsa Forces. On the contrary, I believe that he deserves to be in the 13-man slate because he will bring value-added to the ticket not only because of his academic and professional qualifications but because we need a fresh face in the Senate to serve as the voice of the new generation and who can be a strong advocate of reformist legislation that will benefit our young people especially the student sector which comprised almost 8 out every 10 people in the Edsa Dos crowd.

The Liberal Party is bent on recruiting young political leaders such as Pangilinan into its fold and together with the likes of young LP stalwarts such as Trade Secretary Mar Roxas, Rep. Mike Defensor, Rep. Noynoy Aquino and Rep. Neric Acosta among others, we are making a strong statement that the so-called "Successor Generation" has come of age and is ready to make a difference in the political life of this nation.—**FERDIE T. SIBAL, 18 Green Leaves St., Capitol Green Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City**

Evidence vs Marcoses still needed

THE COMMISSION on Human Rights would like to comment on the published opinion of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines in the INQUIRER's Opinion section last Feb. 14.

Dr. Aurora A. Parong, M.D., mentioned that the CHR has the "responsibility to disclose the truth and should ensure that the horrors of martial law during the Marcos regime should never happen again."

The commission is always alert on the issue. In fact, the records against Marcos are intact in our office waiting for additional documents and credible witnesses. We have been calling the attention of the aggrieved parties to pursue their cases against the Marcoses, so that we can complete our investigation. To date, no evidence to substantiate the pending complaints have been submitted to the committee created for the purpose, which is a matter known to Parong.

We are a constitutional commission with a mandate to ensure that the rights of every Filipino should be respected, promoted and protected. The commission is an open agency ready to accept complaints from individuals, irrespective of his status in society. It respects the right of every individual to express his/her opinion on matters affecting them. We are guided by the constitutional guarantee that "all persons are presumed to be innocent until proven guilty by the court of law."

For any additional information please contact the legal office for the update at Tel. No. 928-0873. We are willing to accept any human rights violations complaints or any suggestions or comments any time.—**AURORA P. NAVARRETE-RECIÑA, chair, Commission on Human Rights, Commonwealth Avenue, UP Complex, Diliman, Quezon City**

Bush Cabinet a watershed for Asian-Americans

NEWS ANALYSIS

Sonya Hepinstall

WASHINGTON—The choice of two Americans of Asian descent for Cabinet posts in the Bush administration is a dramatic breakthrough for a community that has often felt its Americanness is considered suspect.

"It does really mean that the Asian-American has arrived," Organization of Chinese Americans executive director Daphne Kwok said in an interview. "The younger people are just thrilled. It means they have a role model, that they too could be a Cabinet secretary. It's one more barrier that has been broken."

Japanese-American Norman Mineta is Bush's transportation secretary after becoming the first Asian-American ever to hold a Cabinet post by serving in the Clinton administration as commerce secretary. His appointment was closely followed by that of Taiwan-born Elaine Chao to be labor secretary. Together they send a powerful message in what community leaders see as a constant struggle against the image that Asian-Americans secretly owe and pledge allegiance to countries of often very distant origin.

"These are the highest levels of public service. How can anyone question now that these two individuals are anything but American?" Kwok said.

These concerns were spotlighted most recently in the case of Wen Ho Lee, the Taiwan-born scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory who was arrested in December 1999 and spent the next 278 days in jail on charges of illegally copying and storing US nuclear weapons design secrets. The case ended with Lee pleading guilty to only one of 59 felony counts in return for his promise to answer extensive FBI questions. Although he was never charged with espionage because prosecutors lacked evidence, sources in the government and Congress portrayed him as being a spy for China or Taiwan. The case sparked a nationwide furor for being what many Asian-Americans called a blatant example of racial profiling.

Having people like Mineta and Chao at the highest levels of US government could help prevent what Chinese-American Henry Tang called "a rush to judgment and a rush to demonization."

"That (the Lee case) was a huge, huge travesty," said Tang, chair of the Committee of 100, a public policy group founded to bring "an Asian-American perspective to US relations with the largest continent in the world" and address the concerns of Americans of Asian heritage.

Perhaps the most infamous example of hardships faced by Asian-Americans came in World War II with the internment of nearly 120,000 US residents and citizens of Japanese descent—a confinement that, poignantly, Mineta himself lived through as a child.

Japanese-Americans say they continue to feel heat during times of stress in Japan-US ties, such as in the 1980s when trade frictions spurred a rise of anti-Japanese sentiment.

"Usually if the Japanese do something, that impacts us," said Floyd Mori, national president of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). "They (other Americans) see us as part of that problem."

Such anecdotal evidence belies the storied image of the United States as a "melting pot" into which new immigrants are thrown and quickly welcomed as fully fledged Americans.

But community leaders hesitate to call the problem discrimination. "We see it as lacking opportunities to understand and establish a certain amount of simpatico for each other," Tang said.

The difference of lifestyles alone—family traditions, cuisine, religion—can cause misunderstanding, he said, and the "bicultural" backgrounds of Mineta and Chao cannot help but bridge that gap and prepare the way for others.

"There are thousands of Americans of Asian heritage ready, willing and able to serve this country in many other areas. We've been ready for this for a long time," he said.

The appointment of Mineta, a California Democrat and 21-year veteran of the House of Representatives, in particular, has caused great excitement in the Asian-American community because he has been a long-time advocate for its causes. One of Mineta's major accomplishments in the House was his lead sponsorship of the 1988 Japanese-American redress bill, which officially apologized for the wartime internment of Japanese Americans and provided a $20,000 payment to each survivor of the camps.

The hubbub intensified with the nomination of Chao, who came to the United States at the age of 8 speaking no English and eventually earned a master's degree from Harvard Business School. The wife of Kentucky Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell, Chao is a Washington insider who served the administration of Bush's father at the Department of Transportation.

"It's terrific for community organizations...it's tremendously important to have people high profile enough to speak on our behalf and give us access," said Kristine Minami, JACL Washington representative and director of public affairs.

That this watershed event occurred under Bush, the Republican candidate in November who was not favored by most civil rights and community activists during the campaign, is ironic but it has not stopped the community from lauding him.

"By creating the most ethnically diverse Cabinet in US history, especially with the appointments of two Asian-Americans, President Bush has now set a tone and standard to which all future presidential administrations will be compared," said an editorial in the Internet magazine AsianWeek.com.

Reuters

Who said Espinosa's wealthy?

I AM a pediatric oncologist who had the privilege of treating the grandson of Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa more than a year ago. His grandson needed a special form of treatment not available in our country. I made arrangements with the specialist in the United States. However, his grandson could not proceed to the United States for lack of funds.

This is why when I read the lead article published in your newspaper on Feb. 18 titled, "More perks for military," which mentioned his alleged wealth, I knew it could not be true.

Espinosa loved his grandson dearly. He did everything he could to save his life. Espinosa and I did not know each other until his grandson was referred to me by a pediatrician. But after almost a year of caring for his grandson, I have come to know him and his wife and found them to be very decent people.—**AMY G. DY, M.D., pediatrician, Department of Pediatrics, Philippine General Hospital, Taft Avenue, Manila**

ETHNIC GROUP RIVALRY

142 slaughtered in Indon town

PALANGKARAYA, Indonesia—Armed gangs roamed through a town on Indonesia's Borneo island yesterday where more than 140 people have been slaughtered in fighting between rival ethnic groups.

"There are small-scale skirmishes going on," said Police Comdr. Petrus Handoko.

Clashes between indigenous Dayaks and immigrants from other parts of Indonesia first erupted on Sunday in Sampit, about 800 km northeast of Jakarta.

Many of the dead were decapitated. Gangs paraded severed heads around the town.

Hospital official Komaruddin Sukhemi said yesterday at least 142 bodies had been brought to local morgues. More corpses remained uncollected on the streets, he said.

Church worker Natalia, who like many Indonesians uses only one name, said gangs of Dayak men carrying daggers and machetes were burning empty houses belonging to settlers from the island of Madura.

"We are really afraid since there are not many police here," she said.

Police said people in the town were largely ignoring a curfew that has been in place for three nights. They said two joint police and military battalions were arriving to reinforce overwhelmed local security force.

Navy officials in Jakarta said two landing craft were due to arrive in the area to take on some of the estimated 15,000 refugees from the conflict.

Frightened residents of Sampit have flooded the central Kalimantan provincial capital Palangkaraya some 220 km away. Many were sheltering in police stations in the city.

Enmity between the Dayaks and the migrants, mainly from Madura island, has often erupted into fierce brawls in the region. The fighting is often triggered by land disputes.

Hundreds of people have died in the past few years in a series of clashes. At least 260 people were killed in 1999. Dozens also died in attacks in 1997.

Police have arrested 80 people in the past few days, including two local government official they accuse of inciting the violence.

Hundreds of homemade weapons, including machetes and spears, have been confiscated.

Over the past 40 years, hundreds of thousands of people, mostly Madurese, have resettled in Kalimantan—the Indonesian part of Borneo island. They were moved as part of a government transmigration program designed to relieve overcrowding in other areas.

Elsewhere in Indonesia, police said yesterday they found three bodies with gunshot wounds in Aceh province, where a 25-year separatist war has killed more than 6,000 people in the past decade.

Rebels also attacked an air force base with grenades and rockets on Thursday. No one was injured and damage was slight, military officials said. *AP*

AN ARMED Indonesian policeman escorts a group of migrants fleeing from their homes in the central Kalimantan town of Sampit. About 142 people, mostly Madurese migrants have been slaughtered since Sunday in a revival of ethnic violence between the indigenous Dayaks and the migrants from Madura island off Java. REUTERS

"I/AME is and will always be ny path to a better tommorrow."
- Precious Fajardo

"If anyone would ask me what was one of the key elements of my success, I would say it was I/AME. I/AME taught me to become a better person."
- Derree Lim

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Why Prebio[1] is important for your toddler's digestive health

What is Prebio[1]?
Prebio[1] is a unique, 100% natural fiber-nutrient extracted from the roots of the chicory plant -- a special shrub native to Europe which has been studied and found to have a beneficial effect on digestive health. **For the first time in the country, Prebio[1] is present in New NIDO FORTIFIED** to help build defenses against gastrointestinal problems that are common among children aged one year onwards.

How does Prebio[1] work?
Prebio[1] serves as food for the friendly microorganisms - the elements which protect the digestive system from harmful microorganisms that cause diarrhea and other gastrointestinal problems. Fed and well nourished with Prebio[1], the friendly microorganisms increase in great number, and thus, become more powerful in defending the gastrointestinal tract.

As a fiber, Prebio[1] also helps build bulk in stools. This way, waste products easily pass through the intestines, preventing constipation.

GASTROENTERITIS DIARRHEA Prebio[1] CONSTIPATION

What are the benefits of Prebio[1]?
The most important benefit that your child will get from Prebio[1] is that she will have a stronger and healthier digestive system. This means that your child will be better able to utilize and absorb the nutrients she takes in. What's more, she will be less likely to suffer from diarrhea and other gastrointestinal problems that are common among children her age.

Is there a special age when children need Prebio[1]?
Children of any age can and should take Prebio[1]. However, the age group which would benefit the most from Prebio[1] are toddlers or children aged one year onwards.

These kids love to explore and move around, touching and tasting anything they can lay their hands on. Thus, they face more risk of exposure to unfriendly microorganisms that often leads to diarrhea and other gastrointestinal disorders.

How often should your child drink New NIDO FORTIFIED in order to have enough Prebio[1] in her system?
Your child should drink New NIDO FORTIFIED everyday. This way, she will have a constant supply of Prebio[1] to stimulate the growth of friendly microorganisms in her gut. The end result is a stronger and healthier digestive system for your child.

What other good changes could parents expect after their child has tried New NIDO FORTIFIED with Prebio[1]?
Children that have been drinking New NIDO FORTIFIED tend to have softer stools because of their improved bowel system. With regular and healthy bowel movements, children will be more active and happy.

What other special nutrients are present in New NIDO FORTIFIED?
New NIDO FORTIFIED is also rich in Iron and Essential Fatty Acids or EFA for optimum brain development. These special nutrients help keep your child's brain and nerve tissues well nourished.

US war jets hit Iraq anew; Bush defends earlier raid

WASHINGTON—US warplanes attacked air defenses in northern Iraq on Thursday and President George W. Bush insisted that last week's controversial raids by US and British jets near Baghdad were successful although some "smart" bombs missed their targets.

Bush said Friday's strikes on radars and military communications sites around Baghdad were designed to let Iraqi President Saddam Hussein know the Bush administration would remain engaged in the Gulf and to degrade Iraq's air defenses.

"We got his (Saddam's) attention," the new president told reporters in his first White House news conference. "I believe we succeeded in both of those missions."

But US defense and Navy officials told Reuters privately that fewer than half of the US Navy's new satellite-guided glide bombs, costing more than $300,000 each and dropped from afar, struck radar sites near Baghdad last Friday.

Thursday's attacks in a northern Iraq no-fly zone, which the US European Command said were in response to Iraqi anti-aircraft fire and radar targeting near Mosul, came as Washington and London struggled under criticism from the Arab world to develop a new policy toward Baghdad.

All of the US jets returned safely to their base in Turkey after the raids, the US European Command said. British military sources in London said British aircraft were not involved in Thursday's strikes.

US and British jets, which have repeatedly attacked sites in no-fly zones of northern and southern Iraq over the past decade, last Friday targeted some 25 — including nearly 20 radars—outside of the southern zone near Baghdad to stop efforts to improve Iraqi defenses.

Bush told the news conference that he was concerned about "troubling" reports that Chinese technicians were helping Iraq improve its air defenses with fiber optic cables.

"We're concerned about Chinese presence in Iraq," he said. "My administration is sending the appropriate response to the Chinese."

Navy Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, a Defense Department spokesperson, told reporters at a briefing on Thursday that last week's attacks near Baghdad were a success although he conceded that some weapons had missed their targets.

"We fired these weapons at a distance of dozens of miles," he said. "We know that every weapon used in the raid did not perform 100 percent." *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

6 more bodies at crash site

RANGOON—Rescue workers have recovered six more bodies from a helicopter crash that killed Lt. Gen. Tin Oo, the ruling junta's No. 4 general, who was due to be buried with full military honors in Rangoon yesterday. Twelve people are now confirmed dead and four are still unaccounted for from the accident Monday, near Pa-an, 160 km southeast of Rangoon, the capital, said a government official on condition of anonymity. The Russian-made Mi-17 helicopter crashed in bad weather into the Salween River in Karen State with 29 people on board. Thirteen people survived. The search for bodies by Navy divers continues. *AP*

Congress charges Fujimori

LIMA—Peru's Congress voted early yesterday to charge disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori with abandonment of office and to bar him from holding any public post for 10 years. After more than four hours of debate, lawmakers voted 37-24, with four abstentions, to approve the charges against Fujimori, who fled to Japan in November as a corruption scandal battered his former spy chief, Vladimiro Montesinos. The charges for failing to return to Peru mean Fujimori can't hold public office in Peru until he's 72 years old. Under the Constitution, the president must obtain permission from Congress to leave the country and return within a specified period of time. *AP*

ETA chief nabbed in France

MADRID—The suspected military chief of the Basque separatist group ETA was captured in southern France on Thursday just hours after a car bomb killed two people in Spain's Basque region. Francisco Xabier Garcia Gaztelu, who was seized by French police in the town of Anglet, was believed to have ordered Thursday's bombing in the Basque coastal city of San Sebastian, Spanish state radio reported. The attack, just two days after the Basque regional government called early parliamentary elections for May 13, was widely seen as a sign of ETA's determination to intimidate voters and disrupt an already-tense political campaign. *Reuters*

Anwar's suit vs PM junked

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia's highest court yesterday threw out jailed politician Anwar Ibrahim's defamation suit against his former mentor Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. Three judges of the Federal Court upheld the rulings of two lower courts that Anwar's suit was a frivolous abuse of the judicial process, and dismissed the former deputy prime minister's appeal against them. Anwar accused Mahathir of slandering him at a press conference in September 1998 and claimed damages of $26.3 million. *AP*

NZ ministers quit Cabinet

WELLINGTON—Prime Minister Helen Clark's Cabinet suffered another blow yesterday when two ministers were forced to resign amid allegations they falsely claimed lawmakers living expenses. The resignations bring to four the number of ministers who have been forced out of Clark's left-leaning coalition since it took office just 18 months ago. Environment Minister Marian Hobbs and Customs Minister Phillida Bunkle resigned because of an investigation into allegations they falsely claimed allowances for living outside New Zealand's capital, Wellington, while they are registered as voters and live in the city. *AP*

Guatemala general stays put

GUATEMALA CITY—A retired general who helped end Guatemala's civil war said recent attacks on his family won't force him to flee the country and that he plans to form his own political party. "We are not going anywhere," retired Gen. Otto Perez Molina told reporters Thursday night. "I will stay here with my family. We are not altering any of our plans." Molina also said he plans to announce the formation of a new "populist" military party, which he will head. But he stopped short of saying whether it would give him a platform to mount a 2004 presidential campaign, as widely speculated on Guatemalan radio and television. *AP*

GETTING READY AP

A rider in the Knights of Babylon parade prepares to throw beads to the crowd along St. Charles Avenue in New Orleans, Feb. 22. The Mardi Gras season is well underway with the culmination of the festivities on Fat Tuesday (Mardi Gras) Feb. 27. The day precedes Ash Wednesday, the start of the Lenten Season.

US defense chief bars civilians from all vessels

WASHINGTON—Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld will order a moratorium on allowing civilians at the controls of any military ship, aircraft or vehicle, officials said. The move responds to questions about the role of civilians aboard the US submarine that collided last week with a Japanese fishing trawler.

The order is a "work in progress" and may be issued by the end of the week, Rumsfeld's spokesperson, Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, said Thursday. "All the services know this is coming."

The Washington Post, meanwhile, reported that the submarine's captain, Cmdr. Scott Waddle, told Navy investigators that he was aware of sonar soundings indicating that a ship was in the vicinity before the sub made a rapid ascent and slammed in the fishing vessel.

But Waddle maintained that when he looked for a ship through a periscope, he didn't see anything and was not warned of any danger by a sailor whose job it was to plot positions of nearby ships, the newspaper said.

Quoting an unidentified person close to the investigation, the Post said Waddle told investigators he checked the compass bearings of the nearby ship indicated by sonar readings. He then increased the periscope's magnification and ordered the submarine to ascend 60 cm closer to the surface so he could peer over the weaves but still didn't see anything.

A sailor in the sub's control room had calculated that the Greenville and the Japanese ship were only 2,000 meters apart, but concluded that he must have been mistaken because the captain had just pronounced the area clear, the Post said. The sailor then arbitrarily plotted the position of the Japanese vessel as 9,000 meters away from the Greenville, according to the report. *AP*

Hillary denies role in pardons case involving brother

WASHINGTON—Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, buffeted by controversy, said she "did not have any involvement" in the pardons her husband granted on his way out of the White House and expressed dismay that her brother was paid lavishly to lobby for the relief of two men.

"If I had known about this, we wouldn't have been standing here today," the former first lady said Thursday of her brother, lawyer Hugh Rodham, and the $400,000 he received from two pardon-seekers. Had she known, the Democratic senator added at a crowded news conference, "I might have been able to prevent this from happening."

Ms Clinton spoke on a day on which President George W. Bush said he believes Congress has a right to investigate the pardons granted by Bill Clinton, and as the head of one congressional investigating committee said he would insist on "full compliance" with a subpoena for records from the William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation. The group, chartered to establish Clinton's presidential library, received $450,000 in donations from Denise Rich, the ex-wife of fugitive financier Marc Rich, who was one of Clinton's pardon recipients.

There was fresh disclosures during the day on top of Rodham's involvement—that Mrs. Clinton's campaign treasurer had been paid $4,000 in legal fees to prepare two pardon applications that were sent to the Justice Department. William Cunningham III said he had never contacted the White House about the cases, or spoken with either of the Clintons about them. Cunningham's law partner is Clinton adviser Harold Ickes, but he, too, said he never spoke to the couple about the cases.

The former president's office also confirmed that his half brother, Roger—one of the 140 people pardoned on Clinton's last day—lobbied the president on behalf of several friends and associates who were seeking pardons. The president declined all of them.

"Roger did ask the president to consider a list of less than 10 names of friends and acquaintances. None of those pardons were granted nor did he receive any money," Clinton spokesperson Julia Payne said. A Republican controlled House committee immediately demanded documents and answers.

HILLARY

Bush commented somewhat gingerly on the pardon issue, telling reporters he had other matters to attend to. Asked what advice he would offer his own relatives—who include a former president and a sitting governor—the president replied sharply, "My guidance to them is behave yourself—and they will."

Ms Clinton is struggling with an issue that has contributed to a drop in her popularity as well as her husband's, and has overshadowed the beginning of her Senate career. Driven from her new home to her Senate office, she invited reporters to question her without so much as an introductory statement.

She declined to answer questions about the pardons themselves, or whether her husband should appear voluntarily before Congress to answer questions about them.

As for herself, she said, "You know, I did not have any involvement in the pardons that were granted or not granted." As for her brother's actions, she said, "I'm just very disappointed." *AP*

UN war crimes tribunal convicts 3 Bosnian Serbs for gang-rape of girls

THE HAGUE—A UN tribunal has established "sexual enslavement" as a crime against humanity, convicting three Bosnian Serbs who took part in nightly gang-rapes and torture of Muslim women and girls at so-called "rape camps" during the Bosnian war.

The ruling Thursday marked a milestone for the recognition of women's special vulnerability during war and the need for legal sanctions to prevent them from becoming spoils of battle.

"What the evidence shows," the judgment said, "is that the rapes were used by members of the Bosnian Serb armed forces as an instrument of terror—an instrument they were given free rein to apply whenever and against whomsoever they wished."

The sexual enslavement issue was of special importance to Bosnia, where tens of thousands of women were raped during the civil war and taunted that they would give birth to babies of their rapists' ethnicity. Some were imprisoned until pregnancy to achieve that goal.

Most of the victims were Muslims and Croats, who had been raped by Serbs bent on reshaping the ethnic landscape of the former Yugoslavia. Many opted for abortions—some late in pregnancy that left them infertile—sometimes through crude procedures at home.

The tribunal found Dragoljub Kunarac and Radomir Kovac guilty of sexually assaulting victims as young as 12, forcing them to perform domestic chores and selling them into further bondage. They received 28- and 20-year sentences, respectively.

A third defendant, Zoran Vukovic, was convicted of raping and torturing a 15-year-old girl—who was about the same age as his own daughter—but was acquitted of most other charges. He was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

Judge Florence Mumba said Kunarac was involved in a "nightmarish scheme of sexual exploitation" that was "especially repugnant."

"You abused and ravaged Muslim women because of their ethnicity, and from among their number you picked whomsoever you fancied," the judge told Kunarac. *AP*

Lam's glamorous creation, a 24-carat gold toilet, maybe too much even for Hong Kong

HONG KONG—It started off being pure idealism—a dreamy young mainland Chinese learned in school that Lenin had wanted to make gold toilets for the public after the triumph of socialist ideology.

Lam Sai-wing now runs a jewelry shop with a restroom that defies imagination: complete with two 24-carat commodes that some people say are a bit much even for ostentatious Hong Kong.

Inside Lam's glamorous creation, the toilet bowls, wash basins, toilet brushes, toilet paper holders, mirror frames, wall-mounted chandeliers and even wall tiles and doors are all made of solid gold.

The restroom is worth $4.9 million, Lam told a reporter Thursday, but non-customers need not think about using it. People have to spend at least $138 on jewelry for the privilege.

The 45-year-old Lam calls it "a combination of my thoughts and ideals."

But even though Hong Kong abounds in glitz—Rolls-Royces prowl the streets and bowls of shark's fin soup can cost hundreds of dollars—the gold toilet sits in a class of its own.

"It's a novelty, but I wouldn't have a toilet like this even if I had the money," said a visitor to the 3D-Gold shop who gave only her surname, Cheung. "It's too wasteful."

Wang Xifeng, from mainland China, appreciated Lenin's vision and Lam's realization of it.

"It's a good selling point," Wang said with a smile. "It's a dream come true."

The ceiling is decorated with ruby, sapphire, emerald and amber. Even the floor on the doorway to the "ancient Roman-style" washroom is embedded with a handful of 1-kg gold bars.

Lam may have been inspired by Vladimir Lenin, but the fancy toilet is more a tool of capitalism than what the Russian communist had in mind.

Lenin wrote about gold toilets in 1921, saying they would be useful reminders of the waste of lives in wars between capitalist nations that killed millions.

Lam came to Hong Kong from mainland China at age 22 and said his business took off after he worshipped the goddess of mercy, Kuan Yin, at a temple in the Hung Hom neighborhood on the Kowloon peninsula. The goddess is said to possess divine power and her temple stood unharmed when the neighborhood was heavily bombed during World War II.

Lam now has a 2.7-meter statue of the goddess—in pure gold, naturally—worth $1.9 million.

"Ever since I worshipped her at that temple, everything went smoothly and according to my wish," said Lam. "I thought I'd dedicate this gold statue to her." *AP*

A STAFF of the 3D-Gold jewelry store in Hong Kong shows off a solid gold toilet to reporters, Feb. 22. The shop owner says he was inspired by the writings of the Russian communist Vladimir Lenin who wanted to build public toilets of golf after the triumph of socialism. AP

ONE TOUCH
302

ALCATEL

Phones shown at actual size

One Phone. Many Looks. Multiple Uses.

Changeable Front Panels

Want a phone that's as flexible as you are? With the Changeable Front Panels, you can change the look of your phone to fit your mood. Go for different looks any time of the day - for work or play. Add to that the range of Customizable Ringing Tones and you can truly give your phone that extra personal touch.

Hands-Free SpeakerPhone

Do two things at once. With the Hands-Free SpeakerPhone function, you can talk with ease even when you're on the go. And should you expect a call but don't want to disturb those around you, simply switch to Vibration Mode to receive your calls discreetly.

Predictive Text Input

With Predictive Text Input, sending Text Messages is as easy as ABC. The simplified text entry function lets you quickly type and transmit your messages. Or use the Text Message templates to send your messages even faster.

WAP

Need to access the internet in a hurry? With WAP, you can do your on-line shopping, e-mail friends, and still get the latest news and information directly from your mobile phone.

With practical functions such as a built-in Calculator, Currency Converter, Clock, and Alarm, it's a snap to perform tough calculations and even be reminded of important appointments. Plus, the built-in Games will keep you entertained for hours of fun.

Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

ROUNDUP

P5M in property razed

ORMOC CITY—More than P5 million worth of property went up in smoke last Feb. 16 in a four-hour fire that hit the town center of Isabel, Leyte. The fire, which razed at least seven commercial establishments, started at the Necel Store and Bakeshop.

Felix Codilla, PDI Visayas Bureau

Measles outbreak

COTABATO CITY—A child died while 40 other children, aged six months to nine years old, were hospitalized due to a measles outbreak here, health officials said. Half of those hospitalized are residents here and many reside in swampy or slums around the city, said city health chief Dr. Abdula Dumama. Dumama repeated his appeal to mothers to bring their children to the nearest barangay health centers for immunization.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Heart diseases up

LEGAZPI CITY—Heart diseases are on the rise and are now one of the leading causes of death in the Bicol region, a study of the Department of Health office here showed. Diseases of the heart registered an average of 83.16 deaths per 100,000 population in the region in 1999 alone compared to the 57.68 deaths-per-100,000-population average from 1994 to 1998.

Rey Nasol, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Peace body hits killings

LEGAZPI CITY—The Bicol Regional Peace and Order Council has condemned what it said were "senseless killings" in the region that led to the deaths of at least 135 persons, mostly police officers, soldiers and civilians, since January last year. In a meeting Tuesday, the council also called on individuals and groups to stop the "barbaric" acts.

Tony Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hunt for killers on

COTABATO CITY—Police in North Cotabato were ordered to track down the suspects in the ambush 11 years ago of three provincial board members and two police escorts in Barangay Amas, Kidapawan City. Police records showed that on Sept. 29, 1989, armed men waylaid a car carrying three provincial board members and their two police escorts. The gunmen fled leaving an injured survivor, board member Bernardo Piñol Sr., the father of now Gov. Emmanuel Piñol.

Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

25 NGOs for Alvarez

THE NGOs for Integrated Protected Areas, Inc. (Nipa), a consortium of 25 environmental NGOs, is urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to appoint Isabela Rep. Heherson Alvarez as environment secretary. The Nipa, chaired by Rebecca Tañada, co-manages with the DENR the flagship project of the $23-million GEF-UN/World Bank grant to manage the 10 protected areas in the country under the National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act which Alvarez authored when he was a senator. The Nipa letter to the President was signed by lawyer Domingo Egon Cayosa, Nipa president, on behalf of the NGOs, among them, Haribon Foundation, Association of Foundations and others.

Expensive campaign

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY—Mayor Vicente Emano, chair of the local political party PaDayon Pilipino, asked his party mates running for city councilors to put up P600,000 each as party contribution to defray election expenses such as food, gasoline and compensation to party workers. PaDayon Pilipino, formerly with Estrada's Lapian ng Masang Pilipino, suffered financial difficulties after Estrada's ouster. Reelectionist Councilors Mary Anne Enteria and Michelle Tagarda, however, said they could not afford the amount.

Ellen Red, PDI Mindanao Bureau

3 Japanese survive ambush by 3 gunmen in Cebu City

BY ROGER PALLER
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Three Japanese engineers working for the multibillion-peso South Coastal Road project in the city survived an ambush Thursday night by three unidentified armed men in Barangay Bulacao Pardo this city.

Harutushi Usui, Hironobu Takeuchi and Yoshinobu Fukushima escaped unscathed. Their driver, Felix Go, suffered minor cuts from fragments of their vehicles' windshield that was fired upon by the gunmen.

Police said the three were aboard a blue Isuzu Highlander vehicle that was negotiating a road in St. Jude Acres at about past 8 p.m. a few kilometers from their staff house when three men wearing hats and belt bags fired at them.

The three Japanese immediately ducked for cover inside the vehicle. Go crouched to avoid the bullets but continued driving the vehicle. He drove the vehicle to a nearby police station where they sought help.

Police investigators later recovered six shells of bullets for 9mm and .45 caliber pistols at the crime scene.

Mayor Alvin Garcia immediately ordered the police to conduct a thorough investigation to determine the identity of the suspects and the motive for the ambush.

The Japanese Embassy in Manila also expressed concern over the incident and instructed its consul in Cebu, Eiji Ito, to coordinate with the police for the swift resolution of the case.

The police were looking into several possible motives of the ambush. Investigators said the ambush could be connected to the Japanese' work in the reclamation project or it could be a result of a personal grudge.

Police also said it was possible the gunmen wanted to rob the Japanese.

PO2 Celso Cevilla, investigator of police station No. 7, said interviews with workers at the site of the project indicated that the Japanese had good relations with their colleagues.

He, however, noted that there was an intent to kill the three Japanese because a bullet had penetrated the driver's seat.

He added that the ambush might have been long planned because residents of St. Jude Acres told police yesterday that they noticed suspicious-looking men hanging around the neighborhood.

Cevilla said the residents did not report the men's presence to the police because they thought these unidentified men were government agents conducting surveillance operations against illegal drug pushers.

Supt. Ronald Roderos, Cebu City police chief, yesterday detailed police security to the Japanese engineers.

But it was learned that the three did not report for work yesterday. An employee of Toa Construction who asked not to be identified said the three were moved to a safe house.

The three were engineers of the Toa Construction, a Japan-based firm that won the contract to build the South Coastal Road, a component of the South Reclamation Project.

Both the SCR and the SRP cost about P10 billion and are funded by a loan from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund.

Akira Oka, president of the Cebu Japanese Association Inc., said he believed that the ambush was work-related and was not motivated by personal grudge. He, however, did not elaborate.

He said he personally knew the three victims and that they had no known enemies.

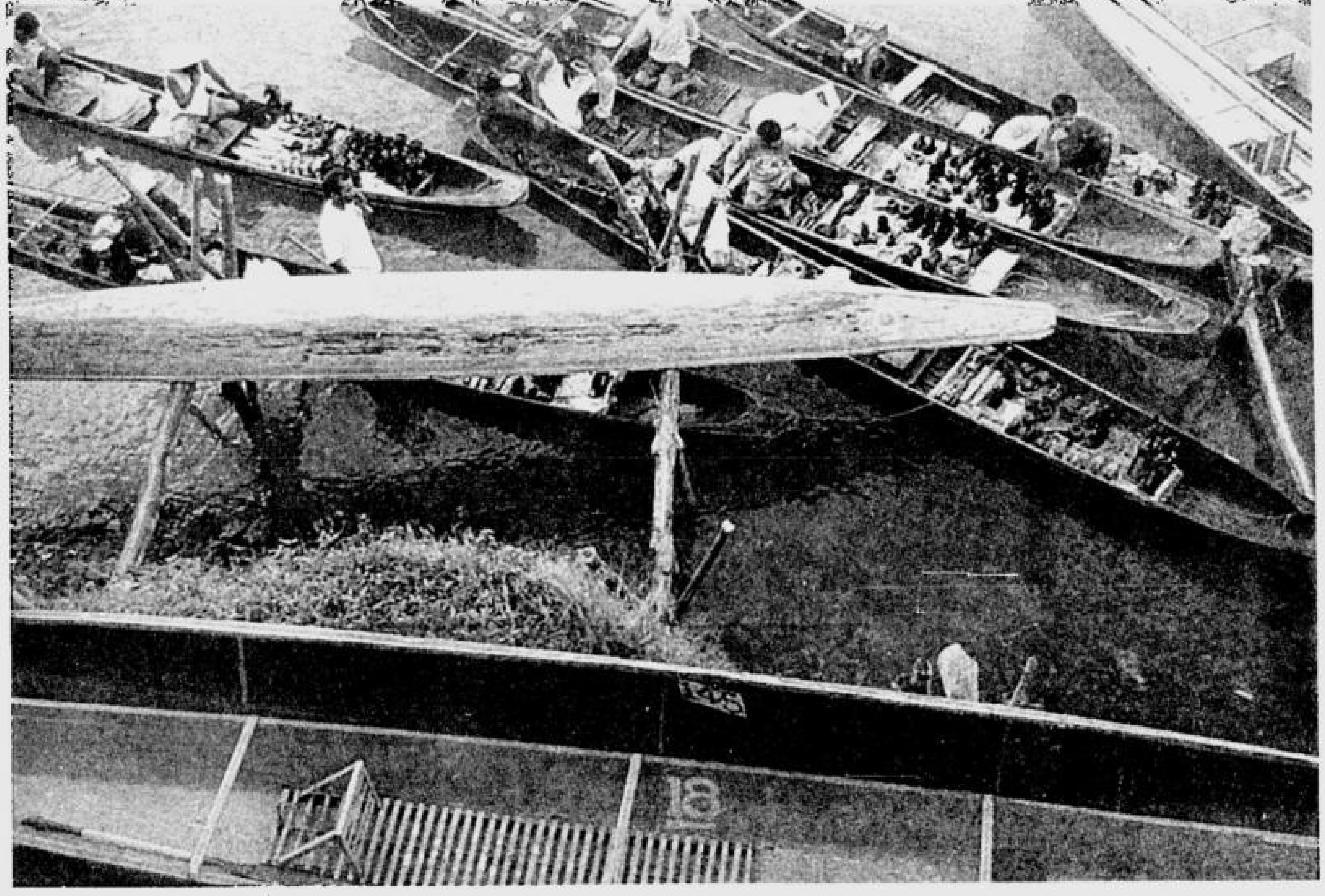
Oka, also president of the Aqra International Trading, said the ambush of his three compatriots would not send to panic the more than 200 Japanese working in Cebu.

But, he added, it would affect Cebu's image as a peaceful city compared to Manila and other parts of the country.

"If news is spread, this will surely affect prospective Japanese tourists," he said.

Cebu has been the favorite destination of Japanese tourists who comprise majority of foreign arrivals.

There are some 100 Japanese companies in Cebu, most of which are at the Mactan Export Processing Zones. The Japanese-owned NEC located inside the MEPZ is one of the top leading exporters in the country.



A RIVER CHANGED

There was a time in the life of the Pagsanjan River when these boats carried fish instead of handicrafts. It was a time when the river teemed with life, its banks bursting with greenery, plants, flowers, trees. A tourism industry that critics say attracted the wrong kind of visitors could have slowly killed the river of days gone by. ROMY HOMILLADA

TARGET SPEAKERSHIP

De Venecia clears way for self

BY YOLANDA FUERTES
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

DAGUPAN CITY—Pangasinan Rep. Benjamin Lim succumbed to pressures from Lakas-NUCD officials and gave way to former Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. in the congressional race in the fourth district of the province on Friday.

Accompanied by De Venecia, national Lakas chair, Lim went to the local Commission on Elections office to withdraw his candidacy for his second congressional term and file instead his candidacy for mayor of this city.

In a press statement, Lim said he was endorsing De Venecia's congressional bid to enable him and other national leaders to mobilize both chambers of Congress as full partners of President Macapagal-Arroyo in rebuilding the battered nation, especially the economy.

De Venecia earlier vowed to recapture the leadership of the House, which he headed during former President Fidel Ramos' term.

Lim, a Lakas member, earlier filed his candidacy as an independent congressional candidate after De Venecia was named official Lakas-NUCD candidate in the district.

There were clamors for Lim to pursue his candidacy, with the fourth district mayors asking the Lakas leadership to declare the district a "free zone."

Pangasinan's fourth district is composed of Dagupan City and the towns of Mangaldan, San Fabian, San Jacinto and Manaoag.

When sought by reporters for reactions, Lim declined and referred them to his prepared statement.

Alvin Fernandez, son of outgoing Dagupan Mayor Alipio Fernandez Jr., would team up with Lim as the party's vice mayoral candidate.

Geothermal death clarified

LEGAZPI CITY—The Philippine Geothermal Inc. (PGI) yesterday denied a report attributed to the police that toxic hydrogen sulfide killed a pipe worker in its facilities in Tiwi, Albay.

A PGI report faxed to the INQUIRER said the death of Crisanto Brusas, 37, of Barangay Cale, Tiwi, Albay was caused by heart seizure while he was being treated at the Bicol Heart Center.

It said Brusas, a utility man of PGI contractor Miescor, complained of dizziness at around 11:20 a.m., Feb. 21, and asked co-worker Neptali Abion for a massage.

But the victim reportedly felt extreme pain in the chest, prompting Abion to take him to the PGI clinic.

A source inside the company said Brusas registered a flat line at the clinic's heart monitor upon arrival.

PGI physician Dr. Edwin Romano, however, reported that the patient's condition was stabilized an hour after he arrived at the clinic.

A company ambulance later transferred Brusas to the Bicol Heart Center for further medication but was pronounced dead due to stroke some 15 minutes after arrival.

PGI spokesperson Emanuel Enalpe told the INQUIRER that the company had done everything it could to help the victim.

Enalpe said company facilities undergo stringent testing for toxic gases before workers are allowed to enter.

In areas where lethal hydrogen sulfide are suspected, workers are equipped with a breathing apparatus.

He said Brusas' death could not have been caused by the gas because about 50 others were working closely with the victim but did not complain of similar symptoms.

The site had also stopped operating since last year and had been "previously checked rigorously," Enalpe added. ***Roly Embile and Job Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

PMAer's kin die in road mishap

CANDON, Ilocos Sur—After attending the wake of 2nd Lt. Jessica Chavez in Sta. Cruz town, three persons were killed and three others were hurt when their vehicle was bumped by a bus in Barangay Oaig Daya here Thursday morning.

Police identified the fatalities as Juana Manzano, Martha Competente and Jose Talladen, all residents of Barangay Sapang Galimuyod here and relatives of Chavez, a Philippine Military Academy graduate who was found dead in her barracks in Fort Bonifacio, Makati City on Feb. 9. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Memorial, but no funds for veterans

CAPAS, Tarlac—The Department of Defense built a multimillion-peso, 50-hectare war memorial here but only 500 out of 3,000 members of the Hukbo ng Bayan Laban sa Hapon (Hukbalahap) veterans or HukVets in this province are receiving old age pensions from government.

"This is an indication of neglect," said Agrifino Dizon, chair of HukVets in Tarlac.

Dizon himself has not received any pension fund all these years after serving in the Squadron 45 of the Hukbalahap's regional command 3 under rebel leader Eusebio Aquino.

Neither were the HukVets getting any support from the United States government, which the Hukbalahap in 1945 helped in liberating the country from the control of the Japanese Imperial Army.

Dizon said the United States government had reasoned it had ceased responsibility over these old guerrillas since the Philippines had declared independence in 1946.

"It did not want to recognize us because, as they said, we were communists or socialists," he said.

The Hukbalahap, formed by the old Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas, which later merged with the Partido Sosyalista ng Pilipinas, gathered all anti-Japanese forces, becoming an army that fought to distribute lands to Central Luzon farmers but to also quell the atrocities of Japanese soldiers, the veterans said. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northwestern Luzon will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 32° Lo 24°	**Baguio** HI 23° Lo 12°	**Tuguegarao** HI 28° Lo 22°	**Laoag** HI 30° Lo 24°
Clark Zone HI 31° Lo 24°	**Tagaytay** HI 30° Lo 21°	**Legazpi** HI 31° Lo 23°	**Calapan** HI 30° Lo 23°
Bacolod HI 30° Lo 24°	**Roxas** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Cebu** HI 32° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** HI 33° Lo 25°
Gen. Santos HI 33° Lo 23°	**Zamboanga** HI 34° Lo 24°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 33° Lo 23°	**Davao** HI 32° Lo 25°

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Fulfilling a 56-year-old promise

By Diosa Labiste
(in Iloilo)
and Hazel Villa
(in Guimaras)

IT WAS a journey partly taken to fulfill a promise to a people who saved his life and also for memories' sake.

Armed with an envelope of mementos and memories of events long forgotten, Albert Franz, now 80 years old, returned on Feb. 7 to Iloilo, to Guimaras and to the site where his A-20 fighter plane crashed 56 years ago.

"This is a very sentimental trip. I haven't given it much thought other than that I owe you so much for saving my life," he told a crowd in Iloilo.

World War II veterans from Panay and Guimaras were there to listen to his words. Also there were villagers whose grandparents or parents claimed to have met Franz when his plane went down on the shores of Libis, Buenavista, Guimaras.

Franz, then 24 and married for just six months, served in the US Air Force and fought in the Pacific against the Japanese. He was assigned to the 42nd 312 Roarin A-20 Bomb Group that made, among others, more than 50 sorties in the Philippines, destroying Japanese positions, supplies and also roads and bridges in Luzon and Visayas.

But it was his mission on Jan. 9, 1945 that was most memorable.

'Jap Happy'

At about 2:20 p.m. on that day, Franz and his gunner, Sgt. Eugene Stranz, were aboard an A-20 fighter plane named "Jap Happy."

They took off from the Tanawan airfield in Leyte to strafe and bomb, at tree-top level, the Talisay Airdome in Negros Occidental.

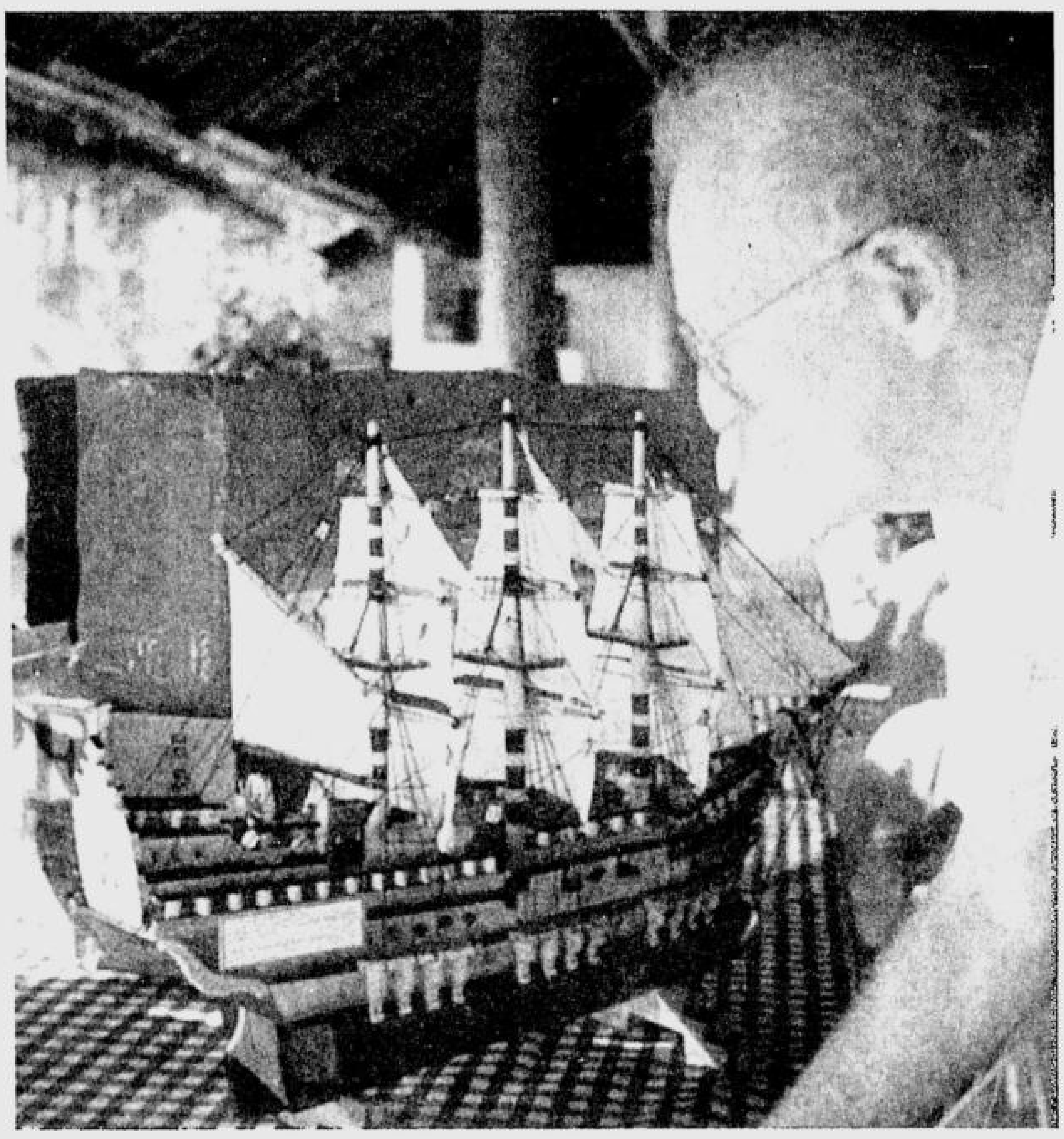
But the left engine of the plane was hit during the strafing. When his squadron returned, Franz was unable to follow the formation because his plane's left engine was gone. "My oil pressure had dropped to zero in a few seconds but I was still getting enough power from the left engine to clear Negros toward the center of Guimaras Strait. As soon as the engine cut out completely, I began to lose altitude rapidly," Franz recalled.

The tail of the plane hit the sea first. Water was pouring in on Franz and he immediately released his seatbelt and stood. The plane was sinking fast so he jumped into the water still wearing his parachute. He saw Stranz climbing out of the wing and screamed at him to ask if he was hurt. When Stranz said no, they swam to a raft that was ejected from their plane, inflated it and climbed aboard.

On the shoreline, they could see people gathering and wading out. "Our first thought was to remove our helmets so we could more easily be identified if the natives were friendly. Sgt. Stranz lost his .45 but I had retained mine," wrote Franz.

He and Stranz paddled their way to shore until they came close to a crowd of 200 on the beach. Somebody shouted "Americans." The two asked him if there were any Japanese around and the man answered there was a garrison 3 kilometers away. They were assured, however, that they were safe in guerrilla hands.

Once ashore, the Americans were mobbed. "Everyone was trying to talk to us. This was the only time I had ever used both hands in shaking at the same time. A big lump had formed in my throat as it generally does when you are overjoyed," Franz recounted.



A PROMISE fulfilled. Albert Franz, 80, takes a break from his sentimental journey to admire a miniature ship handmade by members of a Guimaras cooperative.
HAZEL VILLA

A doctor came to treat Stranz who had minor cuts in the head and bruises in the left leg. Then came a certain Sgt. Salvador, a guerilla who was carrying a .38 cal. revolver. He advised the two Americans to carry their equipment and go with him in a sailboat, as the enemy must have seen the airplane crash. Salvador also ordered the civilians to return to their homes in case the Japanese patrol came down the coast.

Weather-beaten

Franz's account of what followed was rich in details of their escape and the people who helped him. So telling was his description of Salvador's crew.

"The skipper of the boat was a typical sea pirate that you read about in stories. His dress consisted only of G-string(s). He was weather-beaten as ever I saw a man."

The skipper turned out to be the owner of the boat that was leased to the guerilla. His three younger helpers were also guerillas and their work was to carry Army personnel to and from Panay.

Later Franz befriended the skipper, who asked for cigarettes, and when there was no light available, made fire by rubbing two sticks together until the coconut fiber caught sparks in less than a minute.

But instead of sailing directly, under heavy rains and strong winds, to the mouth of the Jalaud River in central Panay, Salvador decided to go ashore to Guimaras again. It was dark when they went ashore and walked under coconut trees. They came to a shack of an old couple, who offered them rice and soft-boiled eggs. Afterwards, Franz and his companions left to join Lt. Abelardo Javellana, a guerilla officer, and a crowd, some of whom where at the beach earlier after the plane crashed. "Where they all came from in such a short notice still has me puzzled," wrote Franz.

Franz gave details of the food and Filipino hospitality. "We had explained that we had just eaten but because of their great hospitality we forced ourselves to eat again."

Franz and his group finally sailed to Panay on Jan. 11 and, on the next day, crossed a stretch of the highway that ran to Sta. Barbara from Leganes town. The area was controlled by the Japanese that fired at them from some 1,000 yards with machine guns and mortars. But the Filipino guerrillas returned fire while the Americans pushed on behind their guide. They suffered no casualties in getting through.

Daring Filipinos

Franz also saw the daring of Filipino resistance fighters when they caught by surprise some 17 Japanese who were praying to the sun at dawn of Jan. 12. The guerrillas killed seven of them while the rest escaped.

On Jan. 15, a fierce battle took place when Japanese soldiers retook the airfield. Franz noted that 60 Japanese were killed against two dead and four wounded from the guerilla side. The Japanese moved away, never to come back.

Franz and Stranz moved to Dumalag in the neighboring province of Capiz on Jan. 16, passing through Pototan town by truck, by foot through Passi town and a hand car on the railroad. The whole trip took eight hours and, to pass time, Franz played bridge with Col. Macario Peralta, a guerilla commander in Iloilo and two of his Filipino pilots. He wrote: "The guerrillas overbid their hands."

The rescue plane did not arrive until Jan. 24 at the Dumarao airfield, also in Capiz. The plane took them back to Leyte, stopping by Tanjay in Negros Oriental. From there Franz and Stranz continued their bombing sorties in the Luzon and Visayas.

Franz decided to revisit Guimaras after seeing a home page of Guimaras posted on the Web. He made contact, got an answer and finalized his plans.

When he stepped down the plane at Iloilo City airport 56 years later, Franz, accompanied by son Ken, daughter Barbara and her husband Robert Chamberlain, a dozen surviving Filipino veterans mobbed him, families of those he had met in Guimaras.

He took off his hat and waved it before a crowd that was waiting to take him to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Jaro, a shrine of World War II heroes in Panay, Negros and Romblon. As before, there was plenty of hugging and shaking with both hands, as if everyone was family.

A promise fulfilled

"He promised us back then that if he is still alive he will come back for a visit," said Lydia Tayo, whose father, Susano Tayo, was one of those who helped Franz and Stranz.

Franz visited the veterans' museum at the shrine and saw, in Peralta's memorabilia, a .45 cal. pistol that he recognized as his gift to Peralta shortly before he flew for Leyte.

Franz also showed an envelope of memories—Japanese money written with names of his friends, both Americans and Filipinos, fading maps, letters, photographs he took of the war and the Filipinos' way of life and strips of paper written by Filipino women who said he should never forget them. One of them was a Ms Purisima Penuela of Buyo, Sta. Barbara.

"My father had been keeping all these things in a box since World War II. It was only the last six months when he started showing them to us. It was as if he was saving them for a special day," said Barbara.

"This is the trip of a lifetime," Franz said in the afternoon of Feb. 10, after he and several divers arrived from a trip to find the crash site off the waters of Barangays Umilig and Avila in Buenavista, in the eastern side of Guimaras.

Franz and his children had flown back to Manila last week but only after Franz found the exact location of the crash site and met again Susano Tayo and Abelardo Javellana.

The divers failed to dive deep and take pictures of Franz's A-20G low-level attack bomber but they were sure of the location.

"Visibility was only one foot away and the currents were too strong for us," said Victor Baldovia, master instructor of diving of the Far East Scuba Institute.

Baldovia attempted to dive at noon of Saturday last week with Bert Chamberlain, Franz's son-in-law who is a certified open water diver. Baldovia said it was enough that they knew the location of the crash.

Franz said Tayo, now 91, clearly remembered him, the food they ate and even the songs they sang. Tayo was one of the then young guerillas on board a sailboat that had seen the "Jap Happy" bomber come down on Jan. 9, 1945.

Franz also had a happy reunion with Javellana, now 81.

Franz, who now lives in Cape Crystal, Minneapolis, said gunner Stranz is still alive, also in his 80s and lives in New York State where he worked as a physical therapist after the war.

The Franz family stayed at the Abelardo's Beach Resort in East Valencia here during their three-day visit. The resort happened to be owned by Javellana and it was on the shores of this same resort where Franz and Stranz were delivered to safety.

PHOTO FROM "CEBU MORE THAN AN ISLAND"

THE "KING and Queen of Visayan Movies": Mat Ranillo Jr. and Gloria Sevilla, circa 1963.

A part of Cebu absent in filmfest

By Marvi Gil
Cebu City

FOLLOWING the success of the Iloilo film festival last week, Cebuanos expected a similar line-up and turnout for the Cebu filmfest initiated by the same organizers. They were in for a disappointment.

While Ilonggo films were screened and awards were handed out in the Iloilo filmfest, the Cebu leg of "Pelikula at Lipunan 2001 Cinema in the Islands" featured documentaries, animation, experimental and short films but not Cebuano classics.

Cebuanos rued the absence of Cebuano films considering that the Cebuano film industry, although already inactive, had chalked up a number of classics.

In 1902, cinema came to Cebu when Pedro Alaria set up a movie house in a Magallanes Street warehouse. It was in 1923 that a group of Cebuanos began work on the first full-length silent film and in 1938 when the first talking feature "Bertoldo, Balodoy" was released.

Between 1947 to 1960, about 80 films were produced at an average of six a year.

Cebuanos even remember that in 1969, "Badlis Sa Kinabuhi," produced by Leroy Salvador, gave Gloria Sevilla the Best Actress award in the FAMAS and the 16th Asian Film Festival in Jakarta. It was even submitted as an entry to the Berlin Film Festival that year.

Ailing

Currently, efforts are being made by Palanca winner Al Evangelio to revive the ailing Cebuano film industry. Contests were held but mainly using the telemovie format. These contests were sometimes controversial as organizer Evangelio himself won the grand prize at one point.

The last serious effort at Cebuano filmmaking was "Itog Manoy, Orange" starring Manilyn Reynes.

Organized by the National Commission for Culture and Arts and the Mowelfund Film Institute, the Feb. 16-17 festival highlighted instead art films rarely screened in cities outside Manila.

Foreign film "Shower" was clearly the crowd favorite as the Zhang Yang work that reaped international film awards won the audience with its return to cinema basics. Zhang kept the story real by keeping the actors restrained but moving.

Scant publicity

With scant publicity surrounding the festival, most learned of it only through regular film schedules in newspapers and posters in malls.

Some even opted to forego "Maalaala Mo Kaya," thinking that this was the recent Star Cinema release, later learning that it was the one by Sampaguita Pictures starring Carmen Rosales, Rogelio de la Rosa, Patria Plata, Rosa Mia and Dolphy.

Flyers handed out during the festival featured an event list for both but it was noted that films already shown before should have been taken out of the Cebu list and replaced with either Cebuano classics or new short films.

There were also no lectures or support discussions.

It was evident that the Cebu part of the three-city films tour was not as well organized as those in Manila and Iloilo.

Ungovernable

LUCID INTERVALS

Rowena V. Guanzon

MOB rule, Time Magazine said, put Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in power. Not power of the people exercising their sovereign will, but a mob, driven only by irrational anger.

The writer is probably one of those who have contempt for Filipinos as an ungovernable people. They chide us for electing a gambler, womanizer and an alcoholic in the first place, and then ousting him for corruption, as if the latter does not follow from the former. They cannot understand how we could have embraced Erap with all his obvious shortcomings one moment and kick him out the next. They mistake our sharpness for schizophrenia, our courage for cowardice. When we protest against our government, they say we are ungovernable. When they protest against theirs, they are exercising their rights.

Are we, as a people, ungovernable? We can read the sign, "do not step on the grass," but we cross it because we know that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. We are probably the only country in the world where a pedestrian lane is not enough, an iron fence has to be built in the middle of the road to keep us from crossing it. Here, a "do not enter" sign is an invitation to do the opposite when no one is watching, and a yellow light means speed up. A one way street is actually two-way if it can take two cars. And an income tax return is something you don't fill up unless you have to.

And yet we are disciplined when we go to rallies. We break rules during civil disobedience, but we break them with a kind of "order." We march in the streets leaving space for jeepneys to pass. We park our cars on Edsa and the overpass, but in a neat row. Drivers give way to each other even without traffic lights. Even our policemen know that in times like those, issuing a traffic violation ticket will be absolutely hilarious.

We do not easily submit to authority not because by nature we lack discipline or that we are simply rebellious. We do this when we know that those in power, presidents or policemen, do not deserve our obedience. We are not easy to govern when we disagree with the way we are governed. We have changed the rules of engagement with those who govern us. We curse some of our senators because we know that they do not deserve our respect. Our recent experience tells us that, in fact, we have a right to show even contemptuous disrespect. Having found that many of our senators are thick-skinned, we call them names. Having ousted a president twice by going to the streets, we know that we can do it again.

We value our freedom. That is mistaken for being "ungovernable." Three hundred years under Spanish colonial rule could not have passed without bequeathing to future generations a disrespect for rules. Three hundred years of rule that treated Filipinos as inferior to Spaniards resulted in our collective knowledge that the rules for the white people are different than those for us the brown-skinned. Even without a colonial master, the poor know that the rules for the rich are different than those applied to them.

Fourteen years of martial law left a mark on our psyche that freedom fought for is freedom preserved. We knew, by painful experience, that a president with absolute power to make and execute laws is dangerous. Now we know that one with a glutton's appetite for money and the good life is just as dangerous.

The same man or woman who went to Edsa is the same one who jumps over a fence so he or she can cross a road. She is the same person who argues with a policeman on the definition of swerving. She is the woman who protests the appointment of Joey Lina as local governments secretary because he banned contraceptives in Laguna.

Ungovernable? I would rather that we are ungovernable than be like "dumb driven cattle." It is better to be ungovernable than be intimidated. Better ungovernable than cheated.

The women have it

By Loly Perez Isiderio

(Conclusion)

CLOSER to home, here in Tacloban City, incumbent Vice Mayor Mimmiette Bagulaya is running for mayor against incumbent Mayor Romualdez.

In her city council slate are incumbent Councilors Malou Go-Soco and Geraldine Domingo.

To be added to the slate is Felipa Espejo who belongs to a large clan and is now barangay chair in Sagkahan.

In Mayor Romualdez's slate are two women I know very well. They are Cristeta Pedrosa, a councilor in 1995. I asked her why she did not run for reelection in 1998 and she said she was very frustrated in her short stint that she did not relish the experience. This time she was invited by Mayor Romualdez to run in his ticket and she said she would decide after much thought and meditation. I told her to go ahead because I am sure she would make a difference.

Another woman who would also make a difference is another barangay chair. Erlinda Almaden also owns the Janssen Heights Elementary School and was once a teacher in the now defunct Divine Word University of Tacloban.

The would-be candidates have until the end of this month to think it over. Those who are running for the Tacloban City council surely will realize by now that "name recall" could help them win. Their active participation in community affairs will go a long way in helping them gain victory.

There will be four mayoral candidates in Tacloban City: Mayor Bejo Romualdez and challengers Mimmiette Bagulaya, former mayor Uldarico Mate, and Vicente "Tente" Mate, Uldarico's older brother.

With a voting population of about 80,000 and an optimistic turnout of 80 percent, we would have a minority mayor with a possible 30,000 vote.

RP fears Sino moves in Scarborough

(From page A1)

covered that China had built permanent military structures on Mischief Reef.

The reef is part of the disputed Spratlys chain of islands in the South China Sea.

China denied that the structures will be used for military purposes, but ignored the Philippine demand to dismantle them.

Baja said authorities would not be caught unawares this time.

"It's possible (that China is attempting to occupy Scarborough Shoal). We didn't detect (their activities on) Mischief Reef. We will not tolerate any Mischief Reef parallelism in Scarborough," he stressed.

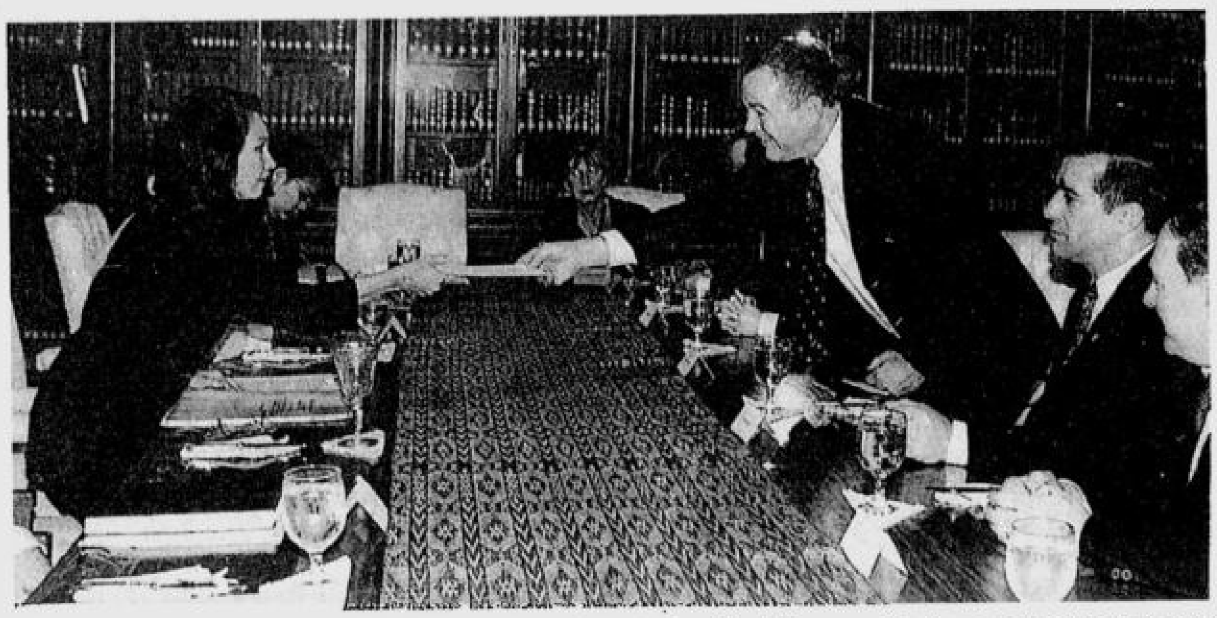
Vice President Teofisto Guingona, also the foreign secretary, is convening the Cabinet Cluster E (national security) next week to discuss increased Chinese incursions into Scarborough Shoal as well as the Spratlys dispute.

Newly appointed national security adviser Roilo Golez on Wednesday renewed his attacks on China and called for international pressure to force China to withdraw from Mischief Reef.

Baja said Golez's statements were a reminder "that China has offended the Philippines."

"As I said before, by putting up those structures, they have put a dagger into the heart of Philippine security. Maybe this is also one way of cautioning China that 'Hey, we won't tolerate it anymore on Scarborough Shoal," Baja said.

In Malacañang, US Republican congressmen promised to work for the upgrading of the country's military capability to thwart alleged Chinese attempts to encroach into Philippine territory.



US Rep. Dana Rohrabacher hands a congratulatory letter to President Macapagal during a courtesy call of a US congressional delegation in Malacañang.
MALACAÑANG PHOTO

US Rep. Dana Rohrabacher, a senior member of the Congress International Relations Committee, even dissuaded the Philippine government from "spending enormous amounts" on the military, saying the US military could just provide "surplus weapons" to the Philippines at "no cost."

"We also want to see that the Philippines has an adequate defense so that the communist Chinese do not come in here to steal all of your offshore oil wells and gas, for Pete's sake," he said after a courtesy call on President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"But the Philippines can't afford a lot of money for the military and we have told the President that would not be a good thing to spend enormous amounts of money on the military," he said.

So Rohrabacher said that he and the other Republican congressmen would work to see if the US military could help "by providing surplus weapons and equipment so that the Philippine military can do its job."

Rohrabacher, who came with fellow Republican congressmen Roger Wicker and Darell Issa, even made other unflattering remarks about China, claiming that "communists in China" had corrupted ousted Philippine President Estrada and the Philippine political system during his time.

He even accused the Chinese of selling drugs to the Philippines, hinting that the former President had something to do with this.

The Chinese embassy reacted to the congressman's statements.

"We feel offended at the irresponsible remarks against China made by a US congressman in the Philippines," said Chinese embassy spokesperson Wang Luo.

"With regard to the South China Sea, it is a question only between China and the related countries in the region," she said.

"Any outside interference can only lead to a complication of the matter and is detrimental to peace and stability of the region," the Chinese embassy said.

Perez says no pardon for Erap

THERE will be no pardon for Joseph Ejercito Estrada if prosecutors succeed in having him jailed for corruption, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said Friday.

Prosecutors were due to file charges against Estrada next week until the Supreme Court issued a 30-day injunction to enable it to study "the mother case" which claims that he is still the President and President Macapagal-Arroyo is only an "acting President." Estrada has alleged a mob had illegally removed him from office.

"The grant of pardons is the prerogative of the President, but I don't think he will get one," Perez said on dzMM radio.

"If a high government official is found guilty of wrongdoing and he gets a pardon instead of serving the sentence, what kind of example are we setting? It would encourage future presidents to steal."

"What I think would happen is that he (Estrada) would first have to be imprisoned. After a while, he would be considered for pardon," Perez said.

President Macapagal admitted before members of the UP community yesterday that she would want the ousted President to go to jail.

"On Erap going to jail. Yes, this is our intention," she said addressing one of the concerns raised by the UP community who visited her yesterday in Malacañang.

"Under the Constitution, we understand that he can be put, he can be detained as soon as the Ombudsman is able to file the case with the Sandiganbayan," she said.

But the President noted that there was a "Supreme Court problem" here.

"Because the Ombudsman was asked to submit his charge only after they (SC members) have decided whether this present administration is the legally constituted government," Ms Macapagal said.

"So this is the state which we are in. But of course, immediately, there must be justice before there can be healing." *With reports from Donna Cueto and AFP*

SEC asks DOJ to sue 140 for BW scam

(From page A1)

President Joseph Estrada, former Finance Secretary Eduardo Espiritu testified that Estrada had told him that he owned BW Resources. Espiritu also said that Estrada had admitted to him that he earned a lot from the trading of BW shares.

Last year, the SEC filed a complaint with the DOJ against a total of 39 individuals, eight brokerage houses and two investment houses led by Tan, a close friend of Estrada, for manipulating BW Resources stocks.

Others cleared last year

However, last December, the justice department approved the filing of charges only against Tan, his associate Jimmy Juan and former BW Resources president Eduardo Lim Jr. The DOJ cleared everyone else for lack of probable cause.

Bautista asked the DOJ under the new administration to review the complaints that the SEC had earlier filed.

The SEC report was prepared by the regulatory agency's compliance and enforcement department based on evidence and documents gathered by a special operations group.

The SEC chair praised bleary-eyed members of the SEC's special operations group (SOG) for exerting extra effort so that the report could be submitted to the DOJ. The members of the SOG stayed up all of Thursday night to ensure that all the documents and evidence pertinent to the BW case were properly filed.

Seven violations

The SEC listed the violations committed by the 140 people and brokerage firms as hyping the stock, wash sales, matched order and cross trades, marking the close and other similar acts, private placements or squeezing the float, free riding and improper extension of credit, done-thru transactions, and abuse of EQTrade facilities.

The SEC said the following should be charged with hyping BW stocks: Tan, Lim, then BW Resources information officer Agnes Maranan, PCCI Securities managing director and Lim's brother-in-law Francisco Liboro and PCCI Securities research head Gonzalo Bongolan.

The five were signatories to a PCCI Securities study recommending BW as a long-term buy for its good earnings prospects amounting to billions of pesos by 2001.

The SEC accused Tan, Raul de Castro of A.T. de Castro Securities and Mark Vinalon and Charles Ngan of Securities 2000 of engaging in "wash sale," and 32 individuals, including brokers Lucio Co, Johnny Yap and Jerry Angping, of engaging in "matched orders."

Wash sale is the illegal trading of stocks without a change in beneficial ownership to make it appear that the stock was actively traded.

A matched order occurs when a person, acting for himself or through a dealer or broker, enters orders for the purchase or sale of shares with a knowledge that simultaneous orders would create an appearance of active trading of the shares.

The regulatory agency cited the following for wash sale, matched order and cross trade: Abacus Securities president Paulino Soo and eight other people connected with the brokerage house, Yap and holders of account numbers 80032 up to 80039.

Cross trades are transactions wherein the broker, who holds or acquires orders to buy and sell the same security, executes both orders at the same time.

For "marking the close" and other similar acts, the SEC identified the violators as Tan, De Castro, Larrgo Securities' Manuel Tanjangco and Emmanuel Locsin.

Marking the close is the practice of placing an order at or near the close of the trading day so as to close the price higher or lower than the previous price.

The SEC also named more than 90 people and entities, which availed themselves of private placements or pre-arranged BW stock transactions through PCCI Securities and Wealth Securities.

Among them were the sister companies of PCCI and the family of PCCI president Federico Galang.

The SEC believed that unlike the technical definition of a private placement, Tan's private placement agreements with PCCI Securities and Wealth Securities did not involve a business purpose but was merely used as a manipulative scheme to create a semblance of active market for BW shares.

For "free riding" and improper extension of credit, the SEC cited Wilson Sy and Debbie Cua of Wealth Securities and Jeanette Que.

Free riding is the purchase of shares without the intent of paying at all or with the intent of paying only if the price goes up by the settlement date.

De Castro, Tanjangco, Locsin and Tan were again implicated for done-thru transactions while Jerry and Willy Ocier of Eastern Securities were accused by the SEC of abusing EQTrade facilities of the Philippine Central Depository.

A "done-thru" transaction is the coursing of the purchase or sale of a security through another broker. It is not prohibited by law but it becomes unlawful when used to manipulate stock prices, the SEC said.

Over the counter

EQTRade or over the counter transactions are hidden from the public as these are not coursed through the Philippine Stock Exchange.

The SEC said that some 140 individuals and entities violated pertinent provisions of the Revised Securities Act, which served as the basis for the institution of the criminal complaint against them. The RSA provisions had been re-incorporated in RA 8799, otherwise known as the Securities Regulation Code.

Under the SRC, it shall be unlawful for any person acting for himself or through a dealer or broker to directly or indirectly create a false or misleading appearance of active trading in any listed securities traded in an exchange or any other trading market.

The SRC prohibits people from entering into transactions that raise the price of securities to induce others to buy them.

It also prohibits false or misleading statements to induce the purchase of listed securities.

Under the law, a person found to have violated the securities laws may suffer a fine of P50,000 to P5 million or imprisonment of 7 to 21 years.

Others accused of engaging in matched orders were:

Edgar Francisco, Sy Eio Tat, Guoco A/C 428-John Doe, Genevieve Go, Lucio Co, Santiago Lee, Anita de la Rosa, Rosa Kaw, David Ng, Federico Galang, Ramon Mapa, Florina Chan, Roberto Galang of PCCI Finance Corp., Industrial World Traders, Federico Galang of PCCI, Ramon Lee, Enrique Tan, Antonio Mapa, Ramon Mapa, Irene Salud, Jaye Marjorie Gonzales, Rita Villa, Abraham Cordoves, Hermogenes Laddaran, Teresita Yupangco, Aurora Mapa, Roberto Galang.

Abacus Securities, Reynaldo Madrilejo, Ansaldo Godinez, Stephen Godinez, and Mandarin Securities, Expedito Yu.

Those who availed themselves of private placement and/or pre-arranged transactions through the PCCI were Mae Ann Abrea, Victoria Africa, Delta Audencial, Rowena Balagtas, Beneficial Life Insurance, Josemarie Binten, Horacio M. Calo, Mario Camacho, Apolinario Carangal and Jose Carcereny.

Pilar Cervantes, Farah Delira, Eloisa Fernan, Esna Franco, Illuminada Garcia, Tun Gee Go, Jose Guingona, Arthur Hernandez, Michael Joson, Roselio Ko, Cynthia Laserna, Jorge Lichauco, Benito Lim, Carmen Lim, Federico Lim, Reynaldo Malaya, Evelina Marron, Susan Medina, Alfonso Ng and Eric Ocampo.

Placida Orlina, Harry Pablo, Roberto Parma, Carmen Pengzon, Agnes Pocen, Romulo Ramirez, Luningning Ramos, Victoria Rivera, Raoul Romero, Irene Salud, Carmen Salvador, Evangeline Salvador, Sonia So, Preciosa Velasquez, Irving Velasco, Imelda Verdadero and Melyn Vida.

Blas blasts Ani . . .

(From page A1)

former first lady said Thursday.

Citibank also dismissed as erroneous Desierto's allegation.

Desierto announced on Wednesday that the former first lady withdrew a total of P110,198,503 from her three accounts with the Citibank branch at Virramall in Greenhills, San Juan.

He made the disclosure after Citibank turned over to his office statements of account of the wife of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Desierto subpoenaed the bank records of Estrada and his wife and his mistresses in connection with the complaint for forfeiture filed by private prosecutors and "People Power" groups.

The complainants want the government to seize Estrada's estimated P20 billion worth of assets.

Citibank said that Desierto's allegation suggested that it had violated the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) order freezing the bank accounts of Estrada and his wife.

Citibank said it "has complied with the BIR order."

Citibank officials said Desierto might have misread Ejercito's bank records.

Ople chided Desierto for his continued and "needless tattling" over the cases filed against Estrada.

"The sub judice rule is flagrantly violated day to day, which may leave the high court no choice but to hold violators in contempt, to preserve the rule of law," the senator said.

He urged Desierto and even Justice Secretary Hernando Perez to demonstrate "complete respect and full compliance" with the orders of the Supreme Court, which has restrained officials against discussing the cases filed against Estrada.

"This is not doing any good to the Macapagal administration if this continues," Ople said.

Erap says he'll campaign for Loi in Mindanao

DISGRACED former Philippine President Joseph Estrada said on Friday he might support his wife's campaign to be elected to the Senate. "I might join them when they return to Mindanao. We will campaign," he said.

Former first lady Dr. Loi Ejercito and other senatorial hopefuls of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino (LDP) party were expected to return to Manila yesterday after a four-day campaign in the southern Mindanao.

"It would be better for me to talk to our countrymen," Estrada said.

Estrada said his wife has been the subject of black propaganda, including allegations by Ombudsman Aniano Desierto that she recently withdrew P110 million from Citibank.

"The first lady said that if the charges were true she would abort her candidacy," Estrada said.

Visayans know . . .

(From page A1)

"It is pleasant to hear a President speaking our language. We can now better understand her plans for us. We also see her genuine concern for our welfare," said Lauro Cruz, a taxi driver.

The President was very pleased when told by local reporters that people here now see some "connectivity" between them and the President.

"She expresses what people have long wanted to hear. We can see that she really feels at home here," said a high-school student in Toril District, Davao City.

The President spoke mostly in Bisaya to address the landless in Toril where she distributed land certificates. Those fluent in Bisaya were all praises for the President, noting that although she is a Kapampangan, the President does have knowledge of the language.

The President spent her childhood with her maternal grandmother in Iligan.

In her speeches, she repeatedly said she is part of Mindanao and wants to bring progress to the island.

Recalling her childhood memories in Iligan, she then declared "*Busa, gusto ko nga mauswag ang Mindanao* (That's why, I want Mindanao developed)."

"I believe that unless we as a people, as Filipinos, not just those here in Mindanao, come to terms with Mindanao, we'll never attain our promise as a nation," she said.

Others noticed that she spoke Bisaya in "slang."

Informed about this, the President explained.

"It is colloquial, not something you learn in school, (but) something you learn playing with children," she told a small group of Manila-based and local newsmen during a private dinner.

But not everyone was gushing here about the Bisayan-speaking President.

Manila-based newsmen who accompanied her were hard put explaining to their bosses what it was Ms Macapagal was animatedly talking about.

"I may have to buy a Visayan-Filipino dictionary if this goes on like this," commented GMA's Maki Pulido.

Told about this in an informal news briefing late Thursday night, the President could only mutter "I'm sorry," smiling and looking amused.

Non-Visayan members of her Cabinet were observed trying to figure out what the President was saying and fighting off sleep.

She also spoke mostly in Visayan in addressing a big crowd at the Davao Rizal Park where she kick-started the celebration of the People Power I anniversary.

Karina David gets Civil Service portfolio

(From page A1)

community held at the Heroes' Hall in Malacañang.

David replaced Corazon Alma de Leon, whose six-year term expired last Feb. 2.

She chaired the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council during the Estrada administration but held the post only for more than a year.

David also served as Estrada's housing adviser. But he replaced her in October 1999 with his friend, developer Jose Luis "Sel" Yulo, who was later found to have pending criminal cases in Makati City.

She was not informed beforehand about Yulo's appointment.

She filed her resignation after learning about it, as well as Estrada's decision to form the superbody, the Presidential Commission on Mass Housing, which Yulo was to head.

BACK in government is UP Prof. Karina David.

Under the new structure, she was to have served as PCMH member under Yulo's supervision.

The President said David's appointment as CSC chair emphasized her administration's policy of appointing women to policy-making positions.

"I believe that there has been no administration before this administration that had so many women in the Cabinet," she said.

Among the women that the President had appointed to Cabinet posts are Budget Secretary Emilia Boncodin, Presidential Management Staff head Vicky Garchitorena, Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Juliano-Soliman, National Anti-Poverty Commission chair Teresita Quintos-Deles and Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas.

David is a professor at the UP College of Social Work and Community Development and assistant professor at the Department of Sociology.

She was secretary general of the party-list group Abanse! Pinay, and president of the 3,000-group Caucus of Development NGO Networks.

She is also president of Property Solutions, executive director of Hasik (Harnessing Self-Reliance, Initiative and Knowledge), and member of the World Bank Urban Advisory Board, Washington.

David is married to UP professor and INQUIRER columnist Randy David. They have four grown children.

Kidnapped Greek . . .

(From page A1)

same time that Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force (PAOCTF) agents arrested a suspect in the case.

The remains of Felippo Orfanos were found by task force agents investigating the kidnapping case. Orfanos, 62, reportedly a port captain of a Manila-based Greek shipping company, was abducted on Jan. 15 at the corner of United Nations Avenue and Jorge Bocobo Street in Ermita.

Upon receiving the report that the body had been found, PAOCTF chief Director Hermogenes Ebdane immediately coordinated with the Greek Embassy to inform the victim's family of Orfanos' fate.

Sources from Task Force Luzon said that a team led by Chief Inspectors Ricardo Dandan and Sotero Ramos had arrested a suspect, whom they identified as Abdul Macaumbang, inside the alleged kidnappers' lair in Maharlika Village, Taguig.

Other suspects are still at large.

Orfanos' body was found in a narrow canal along the highway in Barangay Maybakal, Morong, Rizal.

The police report said that the victim's body bore several bullet wounds. Police estimated that Orfanos had been dead for three to four days before he was found.

Orfanos was apparently shot several times after his family failed to raise a P5-million ransom.

The suspects had initially demanded P5 million, but lowered the figure to P500,000 in a series of negotiations.

The police report said that Orfanos was abducted on his way to the OBSM Shipping Office in Manila around 6:30 a.m. on Jan. 15.

Gloria wants Tessie, Erap in-law out of UP

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she had asked University of the Philippines president Francisco Nemenzo to look into demands that a senator and a brother-in-law of her disgraced predecessor be removed from the UP Board of Regents.

The President was referring to Sen. Tessie Aquino- Oreta, chair of the Senate committee on education, whose term as UP regent is supposedly ex-officio, and Raul de Guzman, who chaired the Erap Muslim Youth Foundation.

The foundation was reportedly used to launder "jueteng" protection money that the ousted President had allegedly received.

Ms Macapagal quoted Nemenzo as saying that he would try to convince De Guzman to "voluntarily resign," so that "you can have somebody more representative of the people's will."

"(De Guzman) had not been attending meetings (of the UP Board of Regents) anyway," the President said.

De Guzman has reportedly been ailing.

Oreta was one of the 11 senator-judges at Estrada's impeachment trial who voted against opening the second envelope containing damaging evidence. *Donna S. Cueto*

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ADVT.

ALL-FILIPINO CUP

Shell upends Alaska, 76-71

GAME TODAY
(San Fernando, Pampanga)
5 p.m. – Mobiline vs San Miguel

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:15 p.m. — Purefoods vs Ginebra
6:30 p.m. — Alaska vs Pop Cola

By Marc Anthony Reyes

SHELL Velocity endured the absence of Benjie Paras and Alaska Milk's vaunted endgame skill to prevail, 76-71, last night in the PBA All Filipino Cup at the Ynares Center.

With Gerry Esplana, Mike Hrabak and Rob Wainwright taking charge, the Turbochargers dashed the Aces' comeback try to surge to their fourth win in six games.

In the second game, Tanduay Gold wasted a 16-point lead but had enough poise left to secure a 71-66 win over Batang Red Bull. The Rhum Masters scored their second win in six games, while snapping the Thunder's three-game winning streak for a 3-2 card.

Kenneth Duremdes nailed a three-pointer in the last two minutes to signal the Aces' anticipated recovery as they closed within 67-70, but he lacked enough support to carry on.

Instead, Hrabak dared his defenders by taking long shots and Esplana scored on his usual off-footed layups that sealed the Aces' worst start in two years for a 1-4 card.

Shell actually had a strong start, pulling away by as many as 16 points but Alaska caught up with action, limiting the Turbochargers to just nine points in the second quarter.

"I told (Alaska coach) Tim Cone that he's got a great team in his hands," said Shell coach Perry Ronquillo as if trying to figure out an excuse for beating the team they normally bow to.

Ronquillo added: "But I think they still have to adjust to the triangle offense."

It turned out that only the mainstays, Duremdes and Rodney Santos, know Alaska's bread-and-butter play by heart, especially at crunchtime.

First-round pick John Arigo was the first one to break the Aces' basic tenet, throwing an important possession by taking a shot even before they could set up the triangle.

Cone rose up from his seat, seething in anger and called a timeout before smashing the playboard to the floor. Alaska was just trailing by six (68-62) with three minutes to go.

Santos and Duremdes then took up the cudgels for their young and inexperienced teammates, but the Turbochargers held on till the end.

First game

SHELL 76—Wainwright 25, Singson 21, Telan 8, Hrabak 8, jackson 6, Esplana 6, Marzan 2, Lim 0, Dualan 0, Dela Cruz 0.

ALASKA 71—Peek 16, Duremdes 16, Santos 14, Allado 9, Ordonio 8, Arigo 7, Wallkvist 1.

Quarters: 26-11, 35-35, 56-49, 76-71.

BAP election

POC-recognized BAP president Freddie Jalasco yesterday said the BAP executive board has finalized the guidelines for the association's election. The guidelines will be submitted to the POC on Monday.

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

Joecal

CEBU CITY—You work for 25 years in one company, that's what you call loyalty.

Thirty years?

I'll call that royalty.

Beyond 30 years, immortality.

Jose "Joecal" Miraflor will retire on March 31 after having worked 33 years in the Philippine Airlines. A photographer of note, Joecal will step out of PAL's doors lugging a cache of immortal memories, one of which is his integrity whose luster is rivalled only by the shine in his pate.

"I'm retiring because I'm supposed to retire," he said. "I'm retiring but that does not mean I'm tired."

His energy is boundless.

In one PAL Interclub not too long ago, Joecal never hit the sack for two nights. He was like New York, the city that does not sleep. And why the sleepless nights? He was working like mad. You know, Joecal takes care primarily of the slew of photographers covering the PAL Interclub. But that's just half of the story. When the day is done, that's when Joecal really starts to move his butt.

"I love making people happy," he said. "It is not enough that you make people comfortable while they are working. Making them happy after work is what really counts in this life."

Eugene "Gitara" Labadan, one of Rollie Estabillo's ablest lieutenants, swears to that Joecal motto.

"My wife would at times get jealous at Joecal," said Gitara, who's been with PAL for 21 years now, who can finish 12 bottles of beer faster than you brushing your teeth. "You know, after work, Joecal loves to unwind. He'd always seek my company. And I must admit that during the after-work encounters with Joecal, I've learned much about life."

Joecal will turn 65 on March 9, and 65 is PAL's mandatory retirement age.

Ten years ago, on his 25th year with PAL, Joecal received a Tudor wristwatch as a reward. He wears it with pride.

"This is my badge of loyalty," Joecal said of his Tudor, the same watch that Tiger Woods wears.

One guy who shares Joecal's feelings is Simoun "Jun" Canton, PAL's pride in its Cebu offices.

"Since I was 21, I've never worked in any outfit other than PAL," said Jun who, like Joecal, is now on his 33rd year with the nation's flag carrier.

But unlike Joecal, Jun isn't retiring yet. No, he isn't retirable yet. June is only 53. On Sept. 16, 2013, Jun's 65th birthday, he'll be eligible for retirement.

"Still a long way to go," Jun said, whose presence at the Media Center of the PAL Interclub is almost the equivalent of Michael Jordan's to the Chicago Bulls when the Bulls were still the Bulls. Without Jun manning the operation of results in the nation's national team golf championships, the media people would be at a loss. What Joecal is to the photographers, Jun is to the sportswriters. Rollie E has never been so blessed having such guys like Joecal and Jun.

But, alas, this will be Joecal's last PAL Interclub. With Joecal's impending retirement, not only will the photogs and even the scribes be orphaned. Jun, too.

I have a suggestion. Why don't we continue having Joecal in the PAL Interclub for as long as Joecal wants to? He can come without working and finally become an honored guest. About time, I believe. Include that in his retirement package. A bonus, I'd say. Besides, just his presence alone will surely light up the annual bash. For Joecal is a jolly good fella.

What do you think, Rollie?

Sixers get Mutombo

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

I WAS wrong, but so were many other NBA watchers.

While most expected NBA trading-deadline day on Feb. 22 to be quiet and dull, primarily because of the restrictive salary-cap rules and heavy, dollar-for-dollar luxury tax that will take effect starting the 2001-02 campaign, it turned out to be noisy and lively as fireworks exploded all over.

Super agent David Falk had earlier declared his client Dikembe Mutombo would at least finish this season with Atlanta before testing free-agent waters in summer but the Hawks simply could not refuse the Philadelphia 76ers' enticing trade proposal and eventually pulled the trigger on the 7-2, 34-year-old native of Kinshasa, Congo, sending him and third-year forward Roshown McLeod to Quaker city for center-forward Theo Ratliff, forward Toni Kukoc, center Nazr Mohammed and rookie guard Pepe Sanchez.

Undoubtedly, the central figures in the deal were Mutombo, Kukoc and Ratliff. McLeod, Mohammed and Sanchez were throw-ins to make the trade work under the League's salary-cap rules.

In order for trades to be approved by the NBA, the salaries of traded players must match up within 15 percent plus $100,000.

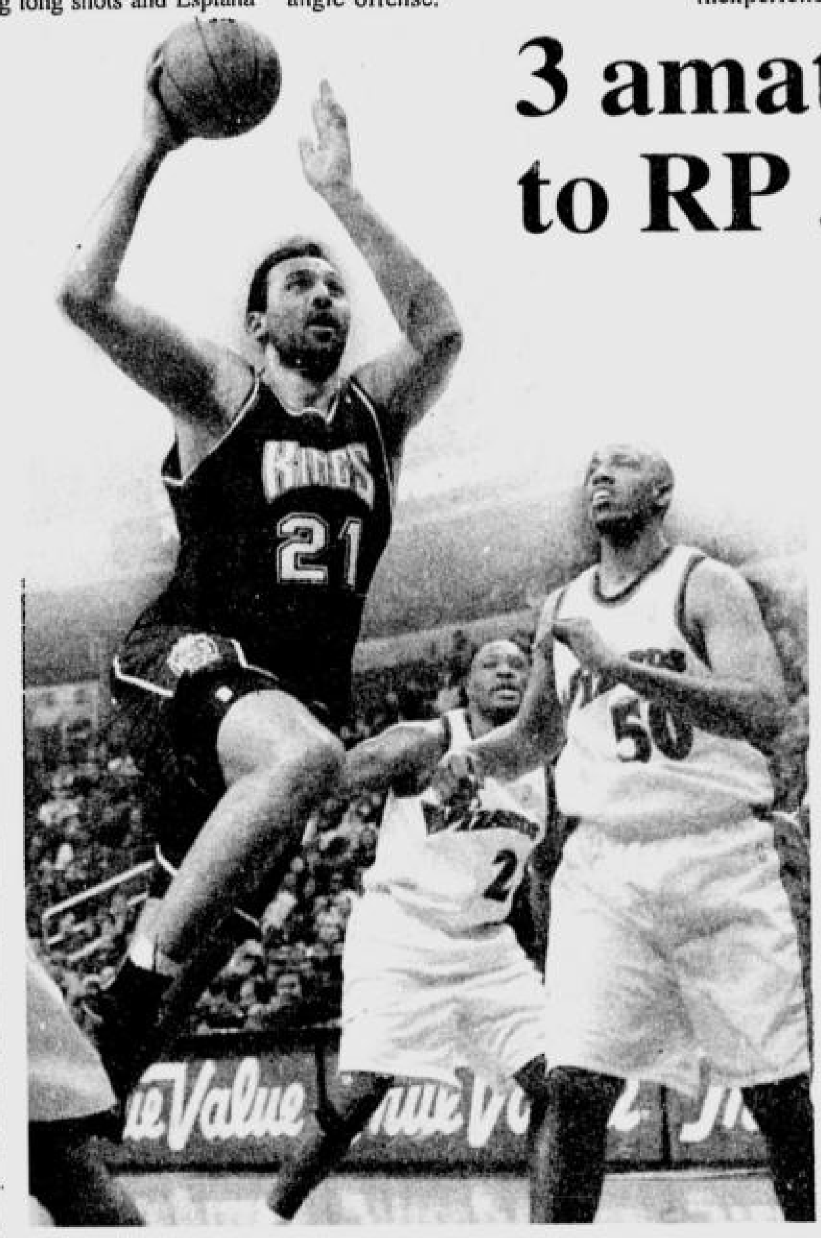
Mutombo is earning $14.42 million this season while McLeod is taking home $980,000. On the other hand, the salaries for Ratliff, Kukoc, Mohammed and Sanchez are $7.8 million, 36 million. $739,200 and $317,000, respectively.

This is one trade that benefits both parties.

In Mutombo, the 76ers got a legit dominant center who fits nicely into coach Larry Brown's system. He brings to the table his rebounding and shot-blocking expertise and will provide the club the intimidating inside presence sorely needed to combat the dinosaurs from the Western Conference when the playoffs roll in late April.

Meanwhile, Washington and Dallas completed an eight-player deal.

The Wizards peddled high-priced forward Juwan Howard and frontline reserves Calvin Booth and Obinna Ekezie to the Mavericks for forwards Christian Laettner, Loy Vaught and Etan Thomas (a rookie) and guards Hubert Davis and Courtney Alexander (a rookie whom Wiz executive Michael Jordan claims was the best player in the 2000 draft).



SACRAMENTO'S Vlade Divac soars to the basket against Washington's Popeye Jones (50) and Mitch Richmond in the second quarter of their NBA game at the MCI Center in Washington Thursday night. The Kings won, 114-110. Complete results: Sacramento 114, Washington 110; Charlotte 93, Golden State 91; Utah 90, Portland 84; LA Clippers 93, Chicago 80; Dallas 98, Boston 91. AP

3 amateurs named to RP 5 South tour

By Roy Luarca

NATIONAL coach Boyzie Zamar is not about to sulk about the sudden disappearance of three San Juan Knights from the Philippine team embarking on a southern tour starting today in Cebu City.

With Omanzie Rodriguez, Chris Calaguio and Chito Victolero reportedly prevented by Knights management from leaving with the Nationals yesterday, Zamar named amateur stalwarts Marc Pingris, MC Caceres and Joshua Ramirez as replacements for their game against the Cebu Gems at 6 p.m. at the Cebu City Coliseum.

"I pity the players. They practiced with the team for two months only to be yanked out," said Zamar. "Hopefully, they could rejoin us when we get back to Manila."

Zamar believes the inclusion of the amateurs won't affect the team's cohesion as they have also been among the members of the national pool preparing for the Southeast Asia Basketball Association Men's Championship next month and three other international tournaments.

The 19-year-old Pingris stands 6-foot-6 and is regarded as one of the country's best prospects. Caceres of PSBA is 6-foot-3, while Ramirez of Adamson is 5-foot-10.

Proceeds of the game, which is part of the city's founding anniversary celebrations, would go to charity projects and the national team.

After meeting the Gems, the Nationals would be flying over to Bacolod City to play against the Negros Slashers at 4 p.m. tomorrow at the University of St. La Salle Gym in Game 2 of the provincial tour sponsored by Rexona.

Other members of the Philippine team are skipper Romel Adducul (6-foot-6), Peter Martin (6-3), Eddie Laure (6-3), John Ferriols (6-4), Ruben dela Rosa (6-2), Homer Se (6-5), Stephen Padilla (5-10), Junel Mendiola (6-2) and Jomar Tierra (6-0) of the Metropolitan Basketball Association and Egay Echaves (5-9) of the Philippine Basketball League.

Albert Almendralejo of the organizing Ground Zero Special Events said the Nationals are also slated to play two games against Cebu Lhuillier on Feb. 28 in Tangub City and on March 1 in Dipolog City.

Center-less Ana takes PBL leave

By Dennis Eroa

MENDOZA

CITING the lack of a legitimate slotman, Ana Freezer Specialist owner-manager Rudy Mendoza said the team may take a leave of absence in the coming PBL conference.

"Ana has gained wide aceptance because of its never-say-die stance. I don't see a chance for the team without the necessary manpower," Mendoza told the INQUIRER.

A noted sportsman-businessman, Mendoza recently met with his key players led by skipper Rey Mendez. He said he will make his final decision after his business trip to Europe this week.

Mendoza's dilemma started following the decision of center Marvin Ortiguerra to turn pro at the start of the season. The 6-foot-5 Ortiguerra is now playing with Sta. Lucia Realty.

"At the moment, I'm doing everything to find a big man," said Mendoza, whose son Paolo was the 2000 top draft pick in the PBA. "If I can't, then we'll have a one-conference leave."

Considered as a crowd-drawer, Ana entered but lost in the finals of the inaugural Challenge Cup against Welcoat. Ana, however, badly missed the services of Mendoza and faltered in the 2000-2001 season where it failed to hurdle the eliminations.

The shining moment of Ana (formerly Dr. J Rubbing Alcohol) came when it stunned powerhouse Tanduay in the 1998 Centennial Cup best-of-five finals. Jimmy Mariano's squad boasted of Triple Towers Allan Gamboa, Ruel Buenaventura and Bryan Gahol.

Pacquiao defends Int'l crown tonight

By June Navarro

ONE can hardly recognize North Korean Tetsutora Senrima in a crowded room at the Games and Amusements Board office during yesterday's weigh-in.

No scars. No healed cuts above the eyebrow typical of battle-scarred prized fighters nor a trace of a 19-4-3 win-loss-draw record spiked by 10 knockouts.

But Manny Pacquiao shouldn't be fooled by Senrima's looks if the Filipino wants to keep his WBC International Superbantamweight diadem tonight at the Ynares Sports Center in Antipolo City.

Beating the 122-pound limit, the 22-year-old Pacquiao will be making his fourth title defense to fortify his No. 3 billing in the WBC superbantamweight division which is currently ruled by Willie Jorin of the United States.

"I've learned my lessons in the past. My near defeat against Nadel Hussein won't happen again," said Pacquiao, who is sporting a 30-2 win-loss record highlighted by 20 stoppages.

Late last year, his title defense against Hussein, an Australian-born Lebanese, almost went to the dogs, good thing seasoned referee Carlos Padilla came to the rescue, halting the brawl after Hussein bled profusely in the 10th round.

Tetsutora, who arrived only last Tuesday, also beat the limit, weighing 121 and a half pounds in time for the fight dubbed as "Rumble in Antipolo" and promoted by Gabriel "Bebot" Elorde in coordination with Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares Jr.

Vintage telecast

VIVA Vintage Sports will telecast the Manny Pacquiao-Tetsuro Senrima title fight today starting at 8 p.m. on IBC-13, with a replay on Monday at 6 p.m. The Pacquiao-Senrima bout precedes today's PBA provincial game in San Fernando, Pampanga between San Miguel Beer and Mobiline, which will be aired at 10 p.m.

Fire hits POC office

FIRE gutted the Philippine Olympic Committee office housed inside the PICC building at the CCP complex Thursday night.

Nestor Iligan, head of POC Athletes and Coaches Commission, said they could not determine the extent of the damage because the area was cordoned off until late in the afternoon. *June Navarro*

Taekwondo tilt

TAEKWONDO gets a big boost from Mayor Lito Atienza with the staging of the 2001 Manila Open Championships at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Sunday) at the Ninoy Aquino Stadium.

According to organizing committee chair Victor Emmanuel Veneracion, the competition is open to all members of Philippine Taekwondo Association chapters and branches throughout Metro Manila.

More than 1,000 players are expected to vie in five divisions—senior men and women, junior men and women and gradeschool.

The tourney, organized by PTA in coordination with the City of Manila, gives taekwondo-jins the opportunity to show their skills and techniques.

Martial arts enthusiasts and sports fans are invited to watch. Admission is free.

Special 4-cock derby tonight

MORE than 40 exciting fights are lined up tonight at the Mandaluyong Coliseum as newcomer Rick Sarmiento plays host to a special 4-cock derby beginning at 7 p.m.

Sponsoring the event is Sagupaan Super Feeds.

Meanwhile, the exciting battle for Ucap Cocker of the Year 2001 will be highlighted anew, as the "5th Ucap/BJ Greenwood 6-Cock Derby" hosted by Ucap president Butch Macasaet and Joey delos Santos unwraps on Tuesday (Feb. 27) and Thursday (March 1).

Starwars Sagupaan of *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio and Tony Litonjua is the current COTY leader with 25 points, followed by BJ Greenwood I (21.5) of Macasaet and Delos Santos, and San Pedro GP Eagle (20.5) of Jet Fernando/Ramon Mencenares.

To follow immediately is the "Joshua and Shio 4-Cock Derby" next Saturday, March 3. Hosts are Peping Suarez of San Juan and veteran cocker Renato Shio.

Entry fee is P8,800 and minimum bet is P5,500. For inquiries, please contact 747-4797, 534-4110, 531-4003 and 531-4005.

'Karambola' championship on

ELEVEN cockers-breeeders are among the top picks tonight when the much-aweaited championship of the "Super Karambola Derby" fires off at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City.

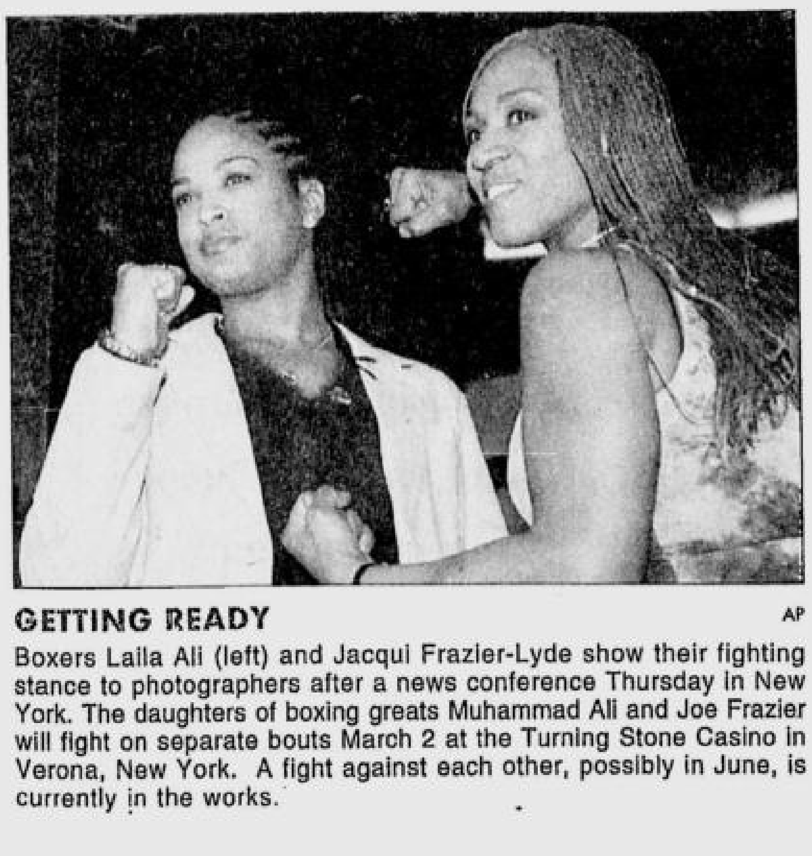
They are Pol Estrellado (Stat Cruz), Philip Chiongbian (Gemcan), Dennis del Rosario (BJD Inc.), Col. Macky Senoza (Peter & Macky), Bobby del Rosario (Mangzee), Te brothers (Wilman), Chet Cuneta (Skywalker), former Congressman Salalima (San Juan), Princess Naldo & Cris Manansala (CM Thunderbolt), Arnold Mendoza & William Tan (Bulak) and Emmitt San Juan (Dangerous).

In addition to the exciting race for the top honors is a 20-rooster "karambola" or battle royale scheduled at 12 midnight.

Last to join the roster of finalists after scoring two wins last Thursday were Kapatas—Comm. Romy de Guzman, San Beda King—Tony Cano, Ricky Fighter Boy tan, GRO—Bolingit, CM Thunderbolt II, Troika—Louie Madrid, Carding Victory—Tatang Mulong and Condors 978.

Meanwhile, due to the success of Super Karambola, another derby with the same format will be held on March 24, 27, 29 & 31.

Reservation of slots and cockhouses is now going on.



GETTING READY AP

Boxers Laila Ali (left) and Jacqui Frazier-Lyde show their fighting stance to photographers after a news conference Thursday in New York. The daughters of boxing greats Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier will fight on separate bouts March 2 at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona, New York. A fight against each other, possibly in June, is currently in the works.

Ladies' caging head inducted

MONTEVERDE

JEANE Monteverde, a businesswoman and sports patron known for her civic work in the community, was inducted president of the newly formed Women's National Basketball League.

Basketball Association of the Philippines president Quinteliano "Tiny" Literal inducted Monteverde into office during the annual national assembly of the BAP on Feb. 18 in San Pablo City.

Other executive board officers of the WNBL are the Jose Aquino, Julian Lavadia, Luis Samson, Jose Bernad, Regino Cua and Johnny Tam with Graham Lim being elected as chair of the board.

The WNBL is a new women's basketball league aimed at assisting the BAP's programs in the development of the sport in the grassroots. It will also assist the national sports association for basketball in the training of the national women's team for the South East Asian Games in Malaysia and the South East Asia Basketball Association Women's Championships and its future formation.

Pierce out, Hingis in

DUBAI—Australian qualifier Rachel McQuillan knocked out second-seeded Mary Pierce, 6-3, 6-1, in less than an hour on Thursday to reach the semifinals of the $565,000 Sanex WTA Dubai Open. In another quarterfinal match, world No. 1 Martina Hingis of Switzerland survived a three-set scare from Sandrine Testud of France 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 to advance to the semifinals. *AP*

SPORTS

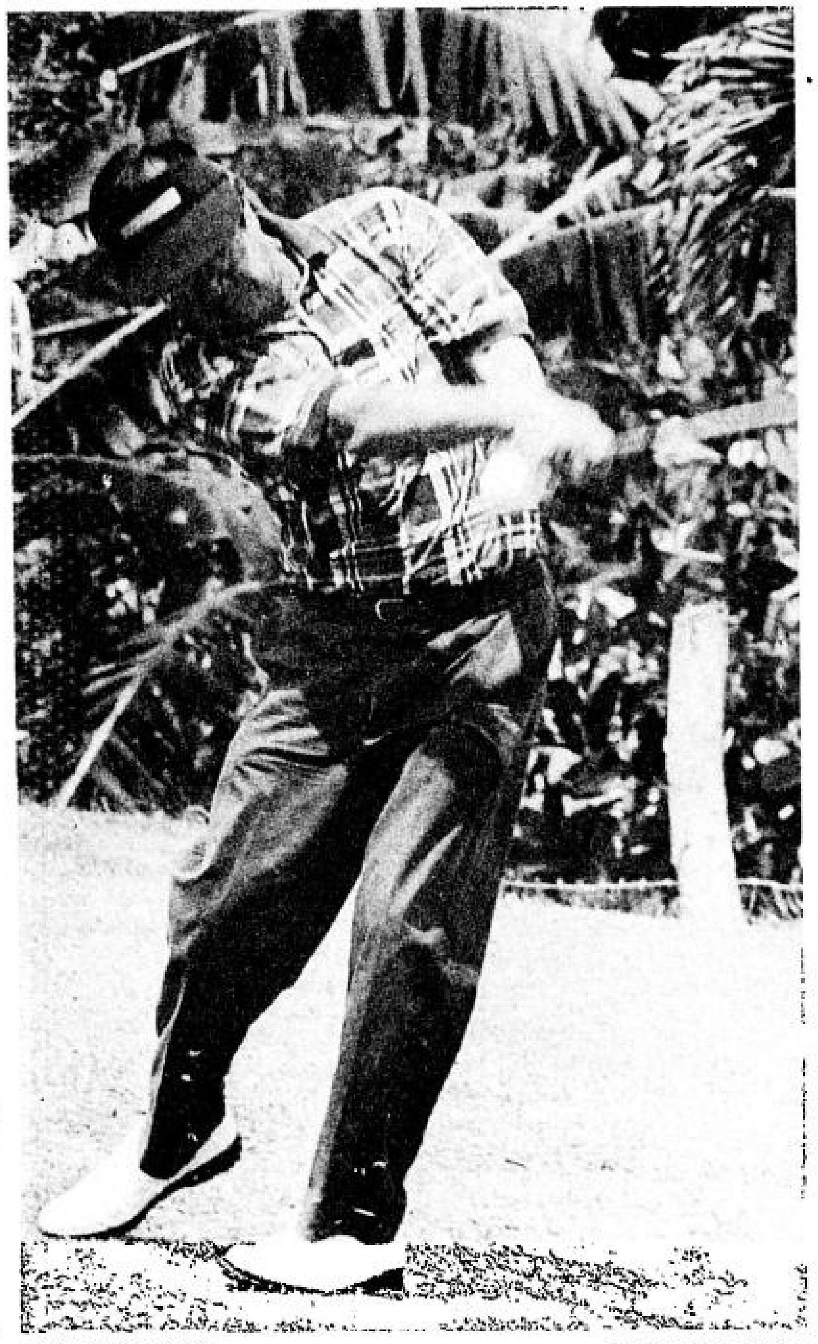
AL S. MENDOZA, Editor EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

Miller fined for obscene gesture

NEW YORK—Indiana Pacers guard Reggie Miller was fined $5,000 by the NBA for making an obscene gesture in Sunday's game against the Los Angeles Lakers. Miller, who had 33 points in the game and paced Indiana to a 110-109 victory, committed the gesture with 10:33 remaining in the fourth period. Miller scored 18 points in the quarter as the Pacers held off the Lakers. *AFP*

Luisita leads PAL Seniors golf

Club Filipino de Cebu wins Sportswriters Division



MONTELIBANO FILEPHOTO/JESSYUSON

BY AL S. MENDOZA
Sports Editor

CEBU CITY—Defending Championship Division champion Luisita, its top guns dishing out solid games, posted an impressive 8-point margin over surprising Riviera yesterday in the 15th PAL Seniors Interclub here.

A 240 total behind the 51 of Alex Montelibano, the 49s of Alan Gaston and Richie Garcia, the 47 of King Sumulong and the 44 of former national seniors champion Lucio Yan pushed Luisita on the brink of stashing away its ninth crown in 15 seasons of the fabled seniors series.

Riviera got 50 points from Danny Pizarro, the team's moving spirit, 47s from Rico Javier and Pablo Soon, 46 from Norton Gonzalez and 44 from Jun Chuidian for 232.

Manila Golf Club was third at 220 through the 48 of Earl McCarthy, the 44s of Joey Stevens, Bolo Tuason and Alex Prieto and the 40 of Peping Tanjangco.

A bright, blazing sun greeted the dramatic victory of Club Filipino de Cebu in the Sportswriters Division after a big rally to relegate erstwhile leader Pueblo de Oro of Cagayan de Oro to second spot in a tie with Lanang.

Club Filipino finished with a mighty 220 at Cebu Country Club after a 201 at its home course in Danao for 421, a big 15-point winning margin over Lanang of Davao and Pueblo de Oro, which collapsed with a 199 at Cebu CC after a 207 at Club Filipino.

The battle in both the Founders and Friendship Divisions will end today together with the Championship category that was won eight times by Luisita in the last 14 years.

There were no stunning scores from the heavily favored Luisita as Danao's Club Filipino de Cebu layout proved too tough in the bright sunshine that saw Hector Samonte of Philippine Navy score a hole-in-one at the par-3, 165-yard 15th of the Cebu Country Club.

For his feat, Samonte, 67, won a first-class ticket to the United States, plus P10,000 from PLDT for long-distance call expenses.

"It's always nice to hear someone scoring a hole-in-one, especially when the feat is scored in a big tournament such as the PAL Interclub," said lawyer Domingo Duerme, the tournament chair, and PAL's senior assistant vice president for Mindanao sales.

It was Samonte's second hole-in-one after making one in 1988 at Navy's 10th.

The scorers for Club Filipino de Cebu in the eight-to-play, five-to-count format in winning the Sportswriters Division were Ed Franco with 46 points, Leo Alvez and Ed de Leon with 45 each, Rolly Santos with 43 and Renato Osmena, the city vice mayor, with 41.

The tie for second between Pueblo de Oro and Lanang was still being resolved at presstime in the tournament that gives 1 point to a double bogey, 2 points to a bogey, 3 to a par and 4 to a birdie.

Among the major sponsors include Airbus Industrie, GE Aircraft Engines, Mareco Broadcasting Corp., NBC, TTG Asia, ABS-CBN, Asia Brewery, Cebu Plaza Hotel, Fortune Tobacco, RMN, Century Park, U-Bix and Pilipinas Shell.

Standings:

Championship—Luisita 240, Riviera 232, Manila Golf 220, Villamor 216, Cebu 215, Wack Wack 212, Valley 210,CrystalSpring 183, Alliance 144, Moffel Field 126.

Founders—Heritage 407, Negros 396, Aguinaldo 389, Apo 381, Navy 347, Paoay 343.

Sportswriters—Club Filipino de Cebu 421, Pueblo de Oro 406, Lanang 406, Zamboanga 382, Cotabato 380, Alta Vista 378, Guinhalaran 376, Bacolod 374, Brookside 356, Maharlika 335, Baguio 334, Iligan 331, Mabuhay 324.

Flightmate outshines Woods

LOS ANGELES —Tom Scherrer didn't want to embarrass himself in front of such an important audience—Tiger Woods in his threesome, thousands of fans in tow. He held up just fine in the first round of the Nissan Open.

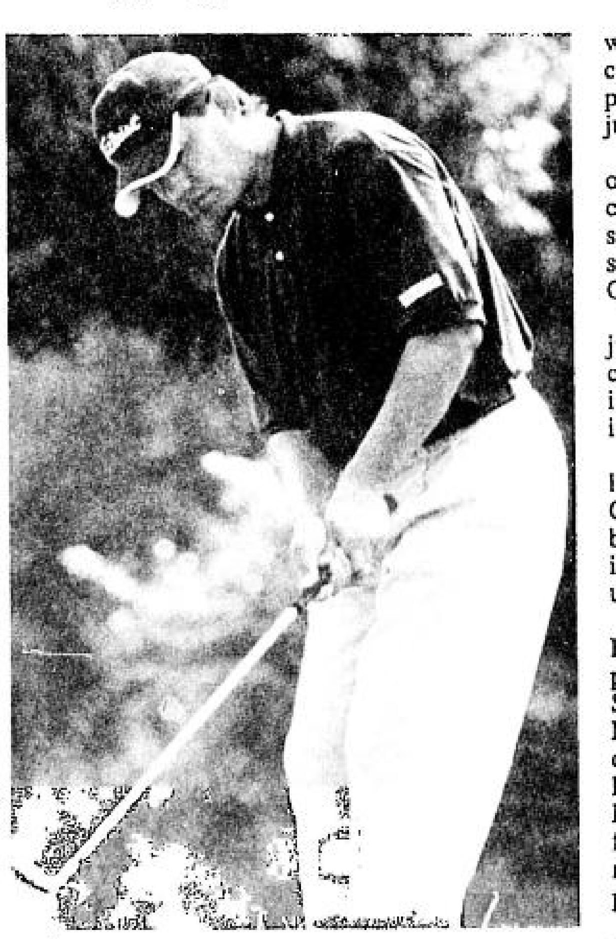
The large gallery that accompanied the No. 1 player in the world was treated to a nearly flawless round by Scherrer on Thursday, whose bogey-free 66 on a cool, breezy morning at Riviera Country Club gave him a share of the lead with Brent Schwarzrock and Sergio Garcia.

While Woods struggled to hit it close and never made a putt longer than 1.2 meters (4 feet) in a round of even-par 71, Scherrer never came seriously close to a bogey.

"Playing with Tiger, I was pretty excited and very happy I played well in front of him," Scherrer said. "I didn't want to embarrass myself."

Schwarzrock could have been excused if he had chopped up Riviera. He only found out he was in the Nissan Open field on Tuesday, then flew across the country from Georgia and didn't have time to play the course. *AP*

Frankie rips Tiger's mark, leads Singapore meet by 2



MIÑOZA RUETERS

SINGAPORE—Frankie Miñoza of the Philippines shattered Asian and European Tour records with a second round 10-under-par 61 to lead the Singapore Masters by two shots on Friday.

The 41-year-old father of four's return was the lowest in Asian Tour history and a course record at the new Singapore Island Country Club.

He finished at 17 under par after two rounds, two strokes ahead of Fiji's Vijay Singh.

Miñoza's two-round score of 125 is the lowest 36-hole total in European Tour history, surpassing Tiger Wood's effort of 15-under par on the opening two days of August's NEC Invitational.

"I just cannot believe I shot 61 and I just hit my driver so good," Miñoza said. "I don't know what it is about this course that I like. I first played in 1975 as a junior."

He has won twice on the course in his career and finished second on two occasions in the Singapore Open.

Miñoza needed just 10 putts over his closing nine of 29 that included seven birdies.

Singh, winner of last week's Malaysian Open, managed four birdies in succession in his round of eight-under-par 63.

Parisian Olivier Edmund is in third place at 11 under par. Scotland's Colin Montgomerie, winner of last week's Australian Masters in Melbourne, added a four-under-par 67 to move to nine under par.

Ireland's Padraig Harrington, who shared the opening round lead with Bennett, had moved to 10 under par through 15 holes. *Reuters*

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

BASKETBALL: NBA Action at 7:30 a.m. (r- 7:30 p.m.) on ESPN

NBA—Sacramento Kings vs Toronto Raptors at 8 a.m. (r- 8 p.m.) on ESPN and Utah Jazz vs Portland Trailblazers at 4 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

NBA Inside Stuff at 6:30 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

Chinese National Basketball League, Semifinals at 11:30 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Cup 'O Noodles Hawaiian Ladies Open, Final Round at 10:30 a.m. (r) on ESPN

PGA Nissan Open, Day Two at 1 p.m. on Star Sports

SNOOKER: 2001 Welsh Open Quarterfinal #2 at 4 p.m. on ESPN

Mapua spikers gain q'finals

BY JUNE NAVARRO

DARK HORSE Mapua Institute of Technology shocked University of San Jose Recoletos-Cebu, 12-9, to join the long list of quarterfinalists yesterday in the men's division of the 5th Beach Volleyball University Challenge at the CCP grounds.

Albert Alano and Eliezer Collado teamed up solidly to surprise crowd favorites Jamel Macasamat and Jerome Capada of the Recoletos, last year's runner-up in the finals held in Boracay.

"Good breaks came our way. They simply crumbled in the endgame," said the 20-year-old Alano, member of the Mapua squad which placed joint third with Foundation University last year.

Trailing behind most of their gut-wrenching face-off, Alano anchored the Cardinals' last ditch bid to turn back the tide, tying the game with a block and racking two more points before match point.

Macasamat, however, authored the Recoletos' own downfall as he hit a wallop that sailed beyond the endline to the dismay of their proponents.

Alano and Collado crushed St. Louis University-Baguio and Adamson University prior to their fierce encounter against the Cebuanos.

University of St. La Salle also snared a quarterfinal slot as it turned back Letran, 12-9, in the women's division.

Spikers Cecile Tabuena and Glenda Pintolo of USLS beat De La Salle University and Philippine Christian University before defeating the duo of Sherylyn Carillo and Abigail Latigay.

USLS thus joined early quarterfinalists University of San Carlos-Cebu, defending champion San Sebastian and two teams from Foundation University in Dumaguete.

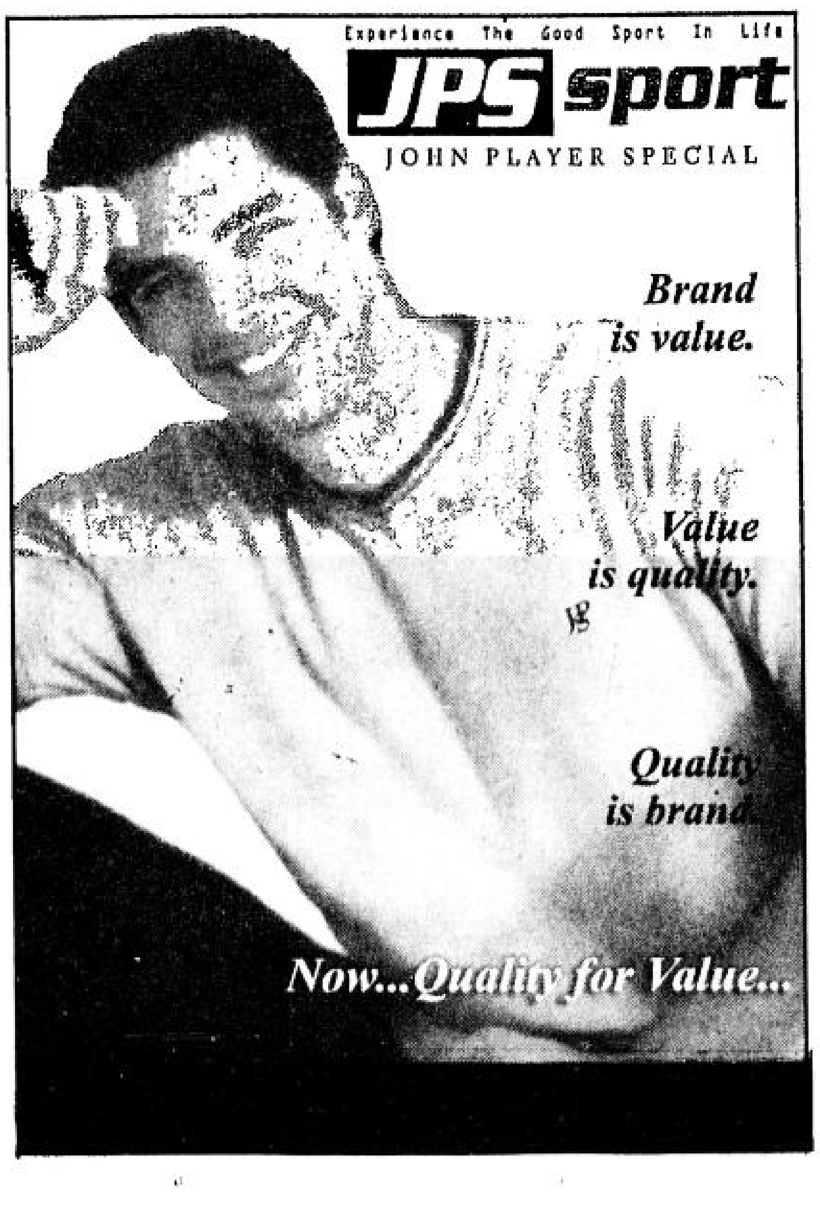
Eight tandems in the men's and women's division will tangle in the quarterfinals tomorrow where the winners automatically earn a semifinal slot in Boracay Island on April 21-22.

5th Nestea

QUARTERFINAL ROUND QUALIFIERS
February 22 results:

Schools/Organizations		Score
Men's Division		
Univ. of St. La Salle-Bac. 1 (Union Marketers)	def. De La Salle Univ. - Taft 1 (Outdoor Club)	12 -10
Women's Division		
Univ. of San Carlos - Cebu 1 (Alumni Association)	def. San Sebastian 1 (SHARMO)	12 -11
San Sebastian 1 (SHARMO)	def. Foundation Univ.- Dum. 2 (OSLEA)	12 - 2

Catch these winning teams fight it out during the Quarterfinals on February 25, 8 a.m. at the CCP Complex.



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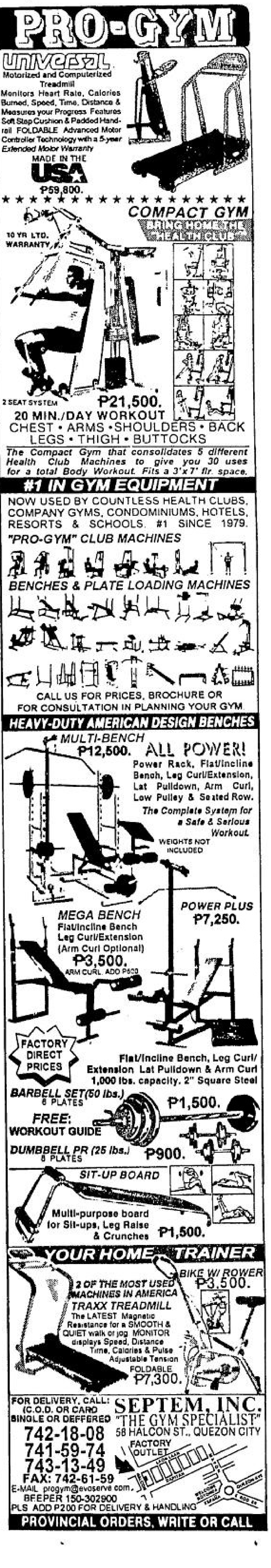

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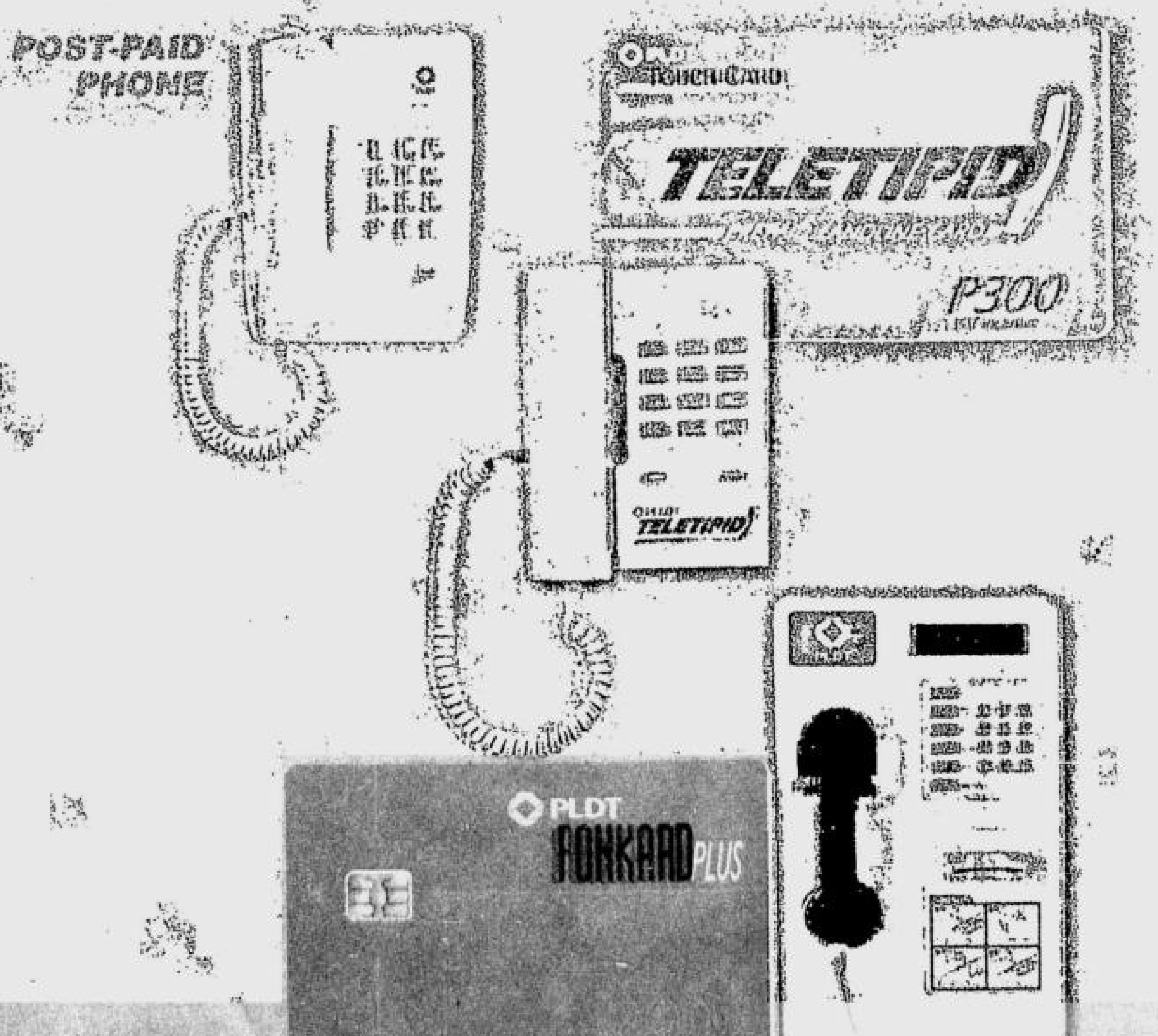
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METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

- Runaway girl, 15, raped, killed A20
- On Target: Muslim applicants at DPWH A20
- 3 cops wounded in gunfight with suspected addicts A21
- Jinggoy's aid won't help Ipe win, says Mayor Abalos A21

'NO EQUIPMENT, NO ORDER'

2 senators suspect arson in PICC fire

ERIK ARAZAS

FIRE fighters and witnesses agree there was chaos in the attempt to put out the PICC fire.

By Alcuin Papa and Christine Avendaño

TWO senators yesterday raised the possibility that the fire, which on Thursday razed parts of the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC), was a deliberate attempt to destroy critical documents that were in key offices in the building.

Both fire fighters and witnesses yesterday also said lack of sophisticated fire fighting equipment, particularly oxygen masks, prevented firemen from arresting the spread of the blaze.

The PICC houses offices of the Senate, the Commission on Appointments (CA) and the Office of the Vice President.

"Was there a deliberate attempt to destroy key offices in PICC in order to get rid of sensitive documents?" Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said in a statement.

The CA office on the fifth floor was destroyed by the fire, said Supt. June Ocampo of the NCR's Fire District 3.

Both Magsaysay and Senate President Pro Tempore Blas Ople are calling for a thorough investigation of the fire.

2 SENATORS/ A20

Motorists to launch protest vs SLEX toll fee increase

By Alcuin Papa

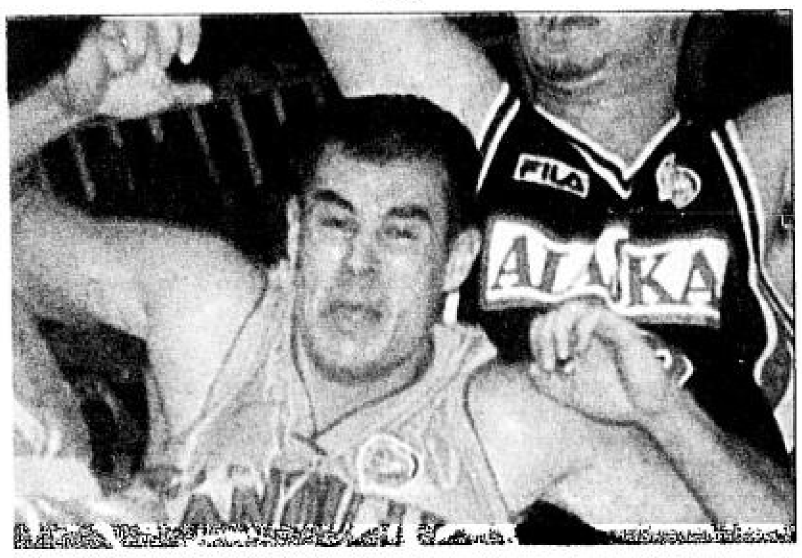
MOTORISTS and residents of San Pedro, Laguna are set to take to the streets tomorrow to protest the planned increase of the South Luzon Expressway toll fees by as much as 200 percent.

Ray Junia, chair of the Movement for Responsible Enterprise, yesterday said San Pedro motorists and residents would kick off their protest activities at the Pacita Post Office at 7 a.m. today.

They are opposing plans of the Philippine National Construction Corp. and the Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. to raise toll rates, according to Junia.

He said jeepney associations and private motorists would join

MOTORISTS/ A21



HATFIELD

Hatfield arrested

By Agnes E. Donato

FIL-AMERICAN basketball star Rudy Hatfield was arrested yesterday while practising with his Pop Cola teammates at the RFM gym in Mandaluyong City.

Hatfield, a resident of Renaissance Tower on Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, was charged with physical injuries and unjust vexation for beating a couple at the Hotel Intercontinental in Makati City in July 2000.

HATFIELD/ A21

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Hold-departure order sought vs 14 aliens

By Rocky Nazareno

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has sought the issuance of hold-departure orders against 14 foreigners who have been charged with securities fraud before the Makati regional trial court.

The 14 foreigners, all employees of Mendez Prior Europe, were arrested in a raid on their Makati office last week for allegedly selling nonexistent stocks abroad.

Senior State Prosecutor Archimedes Manabat yesterday said the DOJ already filed a motion with the Makati RTC to prevent the departure of the 14 foreigners who were charged with violation of sections 26 and 28 of Republic Act No. 8799 or the Securities Regulation Code.

Section 26 of RA 8799 defines fraud in securities transactions while Section 28 prohibits engaging in securities transactions without any license.

The suspects—11 British, a Czech, a Canadian and an Italian—reportedly were part of "a scheme to defraud prospective buyers of securities through the use of telecommunication devices ... and transacting and/or carrying out securities business in the Philippines without proper registration," Manabat said in a four-page resolution.

"Assessing the evidence on hand, we find the existence of a probable cause to indict all of the respondents."

Manabat also recommended bail of P40,000 for each of the accused.

The suspects were identified as Dionne Paultee McLarty, Jonathan Dodson, Bruce Darcy Gabor Kaposy, Drayson Buckley, James Fallon, Geoffrey Missenden, Mathew Carter, Derek Warner, Hanna Sutherland, Kevin Turpin and Christopher Copeland, all of Britain; Helena Ciscoka of the Czech Republic, Massimo Provenza of Italy, and Martin Patrick Totton of Canada.

The DOJ noted that only Dodson, Kaposy, Totton and McLarty were able to produce passports.

The 14 reportedly used the Philippines as a base to sell fake securities and stocks abroad.

One of their victims, a South African, came forward last week to press charges for reportedly having been swindled of more than $100,000 when he allegedly bought nonexistent stocks from the group last year.

Runaway girl, 15, raped, killed

By Philip C. Tubeza

THIRD-YEAR high school student Richelle Mamaril, 15, was a troubled girl when she ran away from her Caloocan home on Tuesday.

Yesterday morning, she was discovered dead on an empty lot near her home. She was raped, her throat was cut and her head hacked open.

Worse, Richelle, of Sta. Christina Homes, Camarin, Caloocan City, was raped and murdered by her own friends whom she turned to for help, said Supt. Romulo Ramos, Camarin police station chief.

Police arrested her friend, Leo Lloyd Dizon, 19, and Virgilio Delano, 18, both of Camarin, Caloocan. They are now looking for another friend of Richelle whom Dizon said also participated in the rape-killing.

Passerby Jurlito Gutilyon discovered the body about 5 a.m. yesterday on an empty lot on Camachile Street about a block from the victim's house, Ramos said.

Police believe the three suspects raped Richelle in an auto mechanic's shop some 20 meters from the abandoned lot.

Dizon is the auto shop's caretaker, Ramos said.

Police arrested Dizon after they followed a trail of fresh blood that led them to the shop.

They saw Dizon wearing a blood-stained shirt and found a knife that they believed was used in the crime.

Authorities believed that after raping Richelle, the men dumped her body on the abandoned lot.

"When my men got there, they saw the wounds on the victim were still fresh," Ramos said. "And when they looked around, they saw drops of blood that led them to the shop."

During interrogation, Dizon pointed to Delano and an unidentified suspect as the ones who raped and killed Richelle.

Dizon said the victim, Delano and the third man arrived at about 10 p.m. Thursday and asked if they could sleep in the shop. Dizon said OK then went out to buy cigarettes.

When he returned, Delano was already on top of Richelle while the other suspect was slitting her throat, Dizon said.

Dizon claimed he told them to stop but the other suspects allegedly kicked him.

"Of course we don't believe him," Ramos said when asked to comment on Dizon's statement. "This could be his way of extracting himself from the desperate situation he is in."

Ramos said investigators are waiting for autopsy results to confirm if Richelle was indeed raped. She had no underwear when she was found.

Ramos said Richelle was the adopted daughter of Eusebio Mamaril, a retired Philippine Army colonel.

Ramos said Richelle's biological parents gave her to the colonel after she was born because she was said to be the result of an illicit love affair. But the colonel did not adopt the girl after all those years.

"Still, the victim grew up with (the colonel) and she was happy," Ramos said. "He raised her as his own."

All that changed when the victim discovered the colonel was not her real father.

"She became rebellious and would not come home for days," Ramos said.

The girl apparently turned to her friends for comfort and that proved to be her undoing, Ramos added.

Dizon and Delano are now detained at the Camarin station while police are preparing rape and murder charges against them.

Authorities are hunting down the third suspect, Ramos said.

Muslim applicants at DPWH

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE MAIN office of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has become a virtual employment agency office. Many job applicants, mostly Muslims from Maguindanao, are there every day, badgering DPWH officials.

Many of these job applicants stay at the DPWH compound on Roxas Blvd., Manila, the whole day. They stay there from morning, when the gates to the compound open, till evening, when the last employee leaves. The same faces come back the following day.

The office of the Secretary Simeon Datumanong is always full of these job applicants, talking in a strange tongue. The guests spill over to the hallway. They allegedly dirty up the place, according to my sources in the department, some of them spitting on the floor.

***

A mischievous DPWH official said: "There is now freedom of spit at the DPWH. You see spit everywhere."

Mr. Datumanong, *pagsabihan mo naman ang mga kababayan mo na huwag dumura sa sahig* !

I suggest the DPWH chief install spittoons in strategic places. A public office like the DPWH is not a repository of spit.

***

Local Muslims—be they Maranaws, Maguindanawans or Tausogs—are very tribalistic, looking after the members of their own tribes to the detriment of other ethnic groups.

It seems Datumanong is no exception. His first order of business when he took over as public works and highways secretary was to appoint two Muslims to key positions in the department. The two Muslims were made directors of the department's foreign-assisted projects.

"There are other personnel in the department who were much more qualified than the two officials that Secretary Datumanong picked for the positions," said a disgruntled official.

***

Speaking of spitting, you can't blame most Muslims for doing that because it's in their culture.

During the feast of Ramadan, a Muslim fasts for one month. The fasting takes place from sunrise to sundown, after which he can go on a food binge.

But during the fast, a Muslim is not allowed to take in any solid food or liquid, including water. And yes, he cannot swallow his own saliva.

So, it's become a habit among some Muslims to spit out their saliva even during the non-Ramadan days.

***

President Macapagal should use her wise judgment in choosing the next administrator of the National Electrification Administration (NEA). The position, like other sensitive posts in the government, has been left vacant after the takeover of the new administration.

The NEA is allegedly one of the most graft-ridden agencies of the government. Its previous officials were said to have raided the agency's coffers by selling or buying equipment at exorbitant prices.

For example, transformers the NEA bought from China at P1.5 million each were allegedly sold to some electric cooperatives for P16 million each, according to a source in the cooperatives industry.

If the President has placed an honest man as head of another graft-ridden agency, the Department of Education and Culture, she should be able to install another honest person at the NEA.

***

President Macapagal is exaggerating her "no relatives, no friends" policy in appointing people to government posts.

Not that GMA should be blamed. Her predecessor, Erap, pledged not to favor relatives and friends in government contracts but he broke his promise unashamedly.

The President allegedly refuses to sign the appointment papers of her daughter Evangeline Lourdes "Luli" Arroyo, who passed the exams for career diplomats.

What's wrong with signing her daughter's appointment papers when she passed the rigid oral and written exams? Out of the 3,000 applicants who took the exams, only three passed and one of them was the President's daughter.

The young Arroyo took the exams way before Ms Macapagal was installed as President. Even then, Malacañang didn't have anything to do with giving the exams.

Ka-OA mo naman, Madame President !

***

But the President seems to contradict herself in the matter of her son, Mikey Arroyo.

She has said that she would not allow Mikey to run for vice governor of her province Pampanga.

But Mikey has asked barangay captains to sign a petition supposedly clamoring for his candidacy.

***

Mike Jr. has been holding dialogues with barangay captains and other village officials purportedly to ask them about their problems.

In one such dialogue, according to my Kapampangan spy, Mikey, after allegedly having had one drink too many, said that he would find a way to become governor after getting elected vice governor of the province.

Now, if Ms Macapagal really meant what she said about Mikey, why is her son now sure about taking over as governor this early?

***

Retired Maj. Gen. Guillermo Ruiz, former Philippine Marines commandant, took exception to my saying that the local Marines are a copycat of the United States Marine Corps.

"Mon, the Philippine Marine Corps has its own tradition. It is a tradition that Filipinos can be proud of. We are not anybody's copycat," Ruiz said.

Amen.

Legless man found in Pasig

A LEGLESS man, his body partly eaten by fish, was found floating in the Pasig River in Manila late Thursday afternoon.

SPO1 Ismael de la Cruz of the city police's homicide section described the victim as between 30 and 35 years old, shirtless and possibly more than five feet tall when he still had legs.

Investigators think the man could be another victim of summary execution and was deliberately dismembered.

More than 20 corpses of men and women, all believed to be "salvaging" victims, have been found in the Pasig River in the past 12 months.

The latest victim's identity would be hard to determine because his face and body bore holes and nibble marks, possibly made by fish or even rats, SPO1 De la Cruz said. The body is at the Sanctuary Funeral Homes in Sta. Cruz, Manila. *Jerome Aning*

Conference changes venue

DUE to the fire that razed the Philippine International Convention Center, the venue of the second national education conference on "Creating an Enhanced Learning Environment Through Individual Learning Styles," sponsored by the Center for Learning and Teaching Styles, Philippines and scheduled for March 1 and 2, has been moved to the Philippine Trade Training Center at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Buendia in Pasay City.

Registration begins at 7 a.m.

For other conference information, call 374-4967, 631-6535, 931-6276 or 633-4863.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday, February 24, 2001
7th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: *Sir 17:1-15*
Gospel: *Mk 10:13-16*

People were bringing their little children to Jesus to have Jesus touch them, and the disciples rebuked them for this.

When Jesus noticed it, he was very angry and said, "Let the children come to me and don't stop them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child will not enter it." Then he took the children in his arms and laying his hands on them, blessed them.

Commentary:

It is a normal thing for children to get restless in Church. They sit still only for a while until they get bored and start moving around and making noise, especially when priests address only their parents and treat them as nonexistent. I sympathize with parents who bring along their children to Church, but who are always on the look-out lest they are embarrassed by the priest the moment their children get unruly. Think about this: If all parents stopped bringing along their children to Church because the services are "for adults only," don't you think our Churches would have long been as empty as most of them are in Europe? If the kingdom of God belongs to "such as these" then our churches must go on teeming with noisy children if they are to have anything to do with God's kingdom at all!

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (JUSTIFYING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Defense of relative—Having invoked the justifying circumstance of defense of a relative, accused-appellant is deemed to have admitted having killed the victim and the burden of proof is shifted to him to establish and prove the elements to set up the defense, namely, (a) unlawful aggression, (b) reasonable necessity of the means employed to prevent or repel it, and, (c) in case the provocation was given by the person attacked, the one defending himself had no part therein. In the case at bar, accused-appellant failed to present sufficient proof of the existence of a positively strong act of real aggression on the part of the deceased. Except for his self-serving and uncorroborated allegations, there is nothing on record that would justify his killing of the victim. He even failed to present his wife to corroborate his claim of sexual assault upon her by the deceased. Hence, the plea of defense of a relative cannot be justifiably entertained where it is not only uncorroborated by any separate competent evidence but is also extremely doubtful in itself. [Citations omitted.] [*En Banc*, Justice Bellosillo, People v. Barrameda, G.R. No. 130177, October 11, 2000]

Digest by R.B. Vera

rna
NESE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRI
防
火
總

VOLUNTEER fire fighters, above and below, ran out of oxygen and could not stay long inside the burning building, witnesses said.
VALHANDUMON

2 senators suspect ...

(From page A19)

Magsaysay, whose office was damaged by the blaze, wants the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct the investigation of the fire.

Ople also wants the Senate to handle an inquiry and Sen. Rodolfo Biazon agreed that it was appropriate to conduct a separate inquiry to "allay fears."

Ople urged probers to look into the angle that disgruntled officials who were not confirmed by the CA could be behind the fire because among those burned were CA records and documents.

He said the confirmation was not done because the Senate was preoccupied then with the aborted impeachment trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"So many military officers and diplomats were deemed bypassed," he added.

Asked if the confirmation of these officials would be further delayed because of the fire, Ople said it was possible because many of the CA records that were burned were a result of a year's research work on the background of the appointees.

No mayors around

Only a few firemen from the Chinese Volunteer Fire Brigade had oxygen apparatus and could enter the building. But they, too, had to come out when their oxygen ran out and they did not have spares, according to eyewitness Joan Orendain.

She said the mayors of Manila and Pasay were not at the scene. PICC stands at the boundary of the two cities.

But Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon was there trying to direct the fire fighting operations even though he would get in the way of the firemen, Orendain said.

Superintendent Ocampo of the NCR's Fire District 3 admitted to the Inquirer that firemen had difficulty fighting the fire, which was placed under control at about 2 a.m., five hours after it started.

Aside from lacking the proper apparatus that would enable the firemen to penetrate the thick smoke, Ocampo said burning asbestos, electrical wiring, upholstery and confined spaces produced fumes.

He said the firefighters were also not familiar with the elaborate passages in the right wing of the building.

Darkness

Another factor that hampered the operations was darkness in the area, which was later lighted up with industrial spotlights. But the tinted glasses of the building blocked the light and limited the visibility of the firemen.

Arson investigators are looking at the possibility that welding equipment could have caused the fire.

Pasay City fire officials said the fire, which started about 8:45 p.m., began in the meeting room 1 on the third floor.

The size of the blaze also called for a general alarm to be flashed by the Bureau of Fire Protection so that the whole fire fighting force of the National Capital Region was mobilized to put out the fire.

This included fire fighting units from Pasay, Makati, Manila, Para□aque and the AFP.

FO3 Renato Recto said workmen were conducting a welding job in the air duct of the third floor.

Drenched documents

The fire also damaged the offices of Senators Biazon and Rene Cayetano, as well as the office of newly appointed Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., who had just moved in.

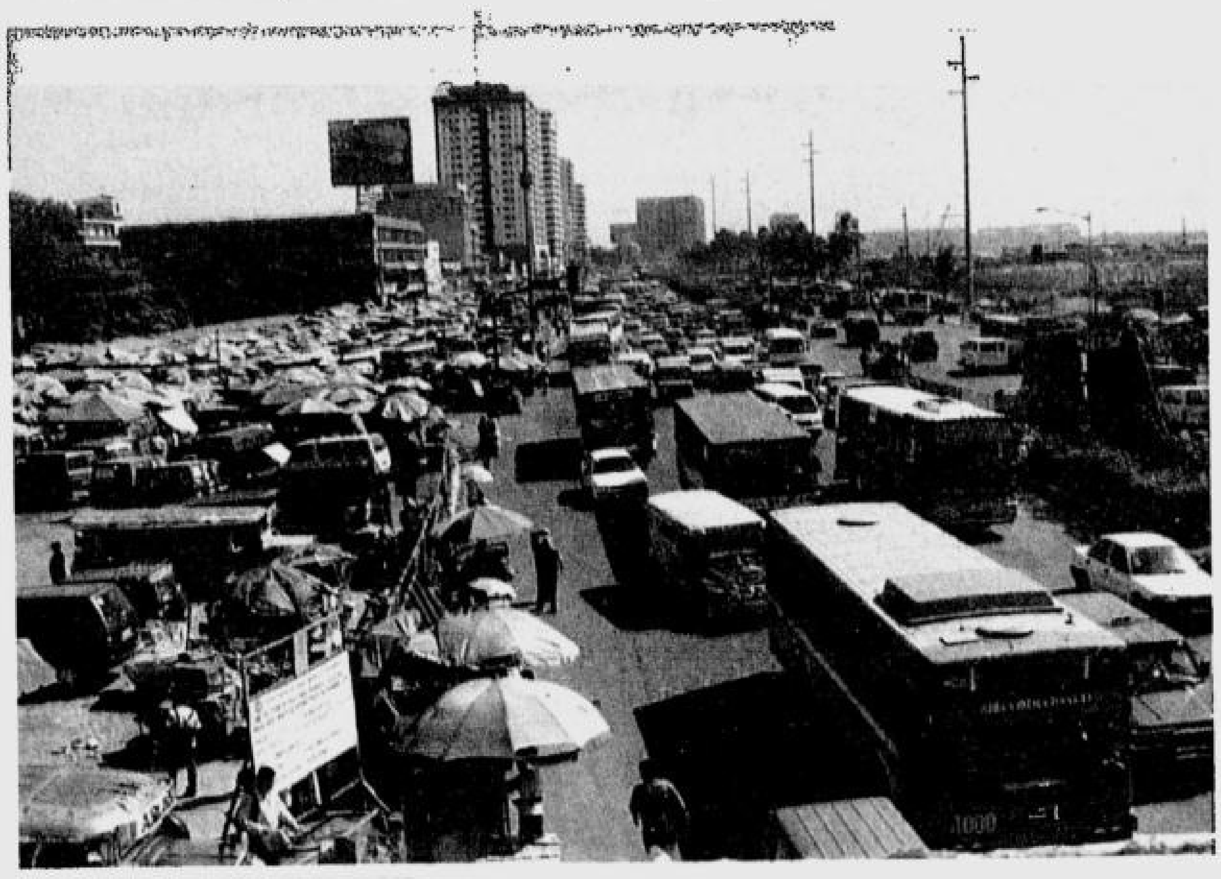
Magsaysay said his extension office at the PICC was partially damaged.

Biazon said the fire did not reach his office, but important documents kept there were drenched.

The Philippine Academy of Family Physicians had a five-day convention at the PICC but no casualties were reported.

But three firemen suffered minor injuries. One of them was identified as SFO2 Ruben Sagada, a member of one of the Manila fire fighting units, who suffered a deep cut on his left hip.

Fire officials have not released any figures on the total damage inflicted by the fire.



BACLARAN BOTTLENECK
Baclaran in Parañaque is not Baclaran with traffic jams. These days, the jams last even longer. The culprit: the construction of a pedestrian's overpass over one portion of Roxas Boulevard. BETOY JOHNSON

3 cops wounded in gunfight with suspected addicts

By Philip C. Tubeza

THREE members of the Central Police District (CPD) were critically wounded in a shootout with a group of suspected drug addicts on Thursday night in Quezon City.

SPO1 Isidro Andrada, 44; PO2 Emerito Mendoza, 33; and PO2 Buenaventura Felicitas, members of the CPD Mobile Unit, were injured after seven unidentified men shot at their vehicle, said investigator SPO1 Ramon Fernandez.

Fatima A. Aragasi, 37, of Squatters' Area, West Fairview in Quezon City, was also wounded in the firefight, but it was not clear if she was with the suspects or was simply a bystander.

Police arrested Michael Ampaso, 24, and Jerry A. Bagul, 22, both of West Fairview, in connection with the shooting.

Fernandez said the three policemen were in their patrol car, CPD Mobile Unit 112, when the suspects fired at them about 7:20 p.m. at the corner of Regalado Avenue and Rolex Street.

"The policemen were about to check what the suspects were doing along the road," Fernandez said.

But before the policemen could get out of their car, the suspects fired at them, police said.

A bullet hit the car's hood and shattered the window of the passenger seat in front.

Police said Andrade was hit in the right shoulder and Mendoza in the right hand. Felicitas was shot in the shoulder and stomach and was still in critical condition as of yesterday afternoon, police said.

Aragasi took a bullet in the right leg, police said. The shot came from the suspects, who fled on foot after the incident, police said.

The wounded policemen were brought to the FEU Hospital and were later transferred to the East Avenue hospital. Aragasi is now in police custody, said SPO1 Fernandez.

Traffic changes on Edsa

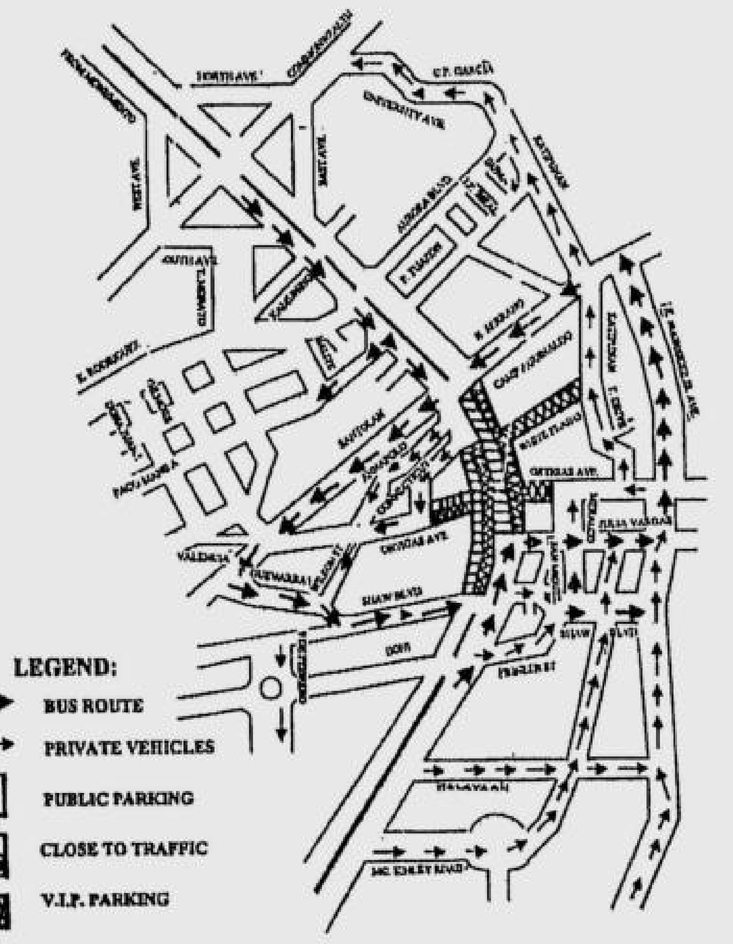
THE STRETCH of Edsa from Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong to Santolan in Quezon City will be closed to vehicular traffic from 12 noon today to midnight of Feb. 25, 2001.

All Northbound vehicles along Edsa may take any of the following routes:

- From Edsa, turn right on Pioneer Street, right on Shaw Boulevard, straight to Pasig Boulevard, left on C-5 to point of destination.
- From Edsa, right on Shaw Boulevard, straight to Pasig Boulevard, left on C-5 to point of destination.
- From Edsa, right on J. Vargas Street, left on Meralco Avenue, right on Ortigas Avenue to point of destination.

All south-bound vehicles along Edsa may take either of the following routes:

- From Edsa, turn right on Aurora Boulevard, left on either Balete Drive or Dona M. Hemady, right on N. Domingo Street, left on Granada Street toward Ortigas Avenue, right on Wilson Street, left on P. Guevarra Street to Luna Mencias, then left on Shaw Boulevard to point of destination.
- From Edsa, right on Santolan, left on Ortigas, right on Wilson Street, left on P. Guevarra Street, straight to Luna Mencias then left toward Shaw Boulevard to point of destination.



- From Edsa, right on Annapolis or Connecticut, right on Ortigas Avenue, left on Wilson Street, left on P. Guevarra Street then left on Shaw Boulevard to point of destination.
- All vehicles along Ortigas Avenue coming from Cainta may turn either left or right on C-5 to point of destination.

G's mother robbed

THE MOTHER of movie and television actress Giselle "G" Toengi lost some P2.4 million worth of cash and jewelry to unidentified robbers who broke into her Mandaluyong house on Thursday.

Police are looking for two men suspected of robbing the house of Aurora Toengi, 63, in Barangay Addition Hills in Mandaluyong City.

Housemaid Judy Inar, 28, told police that a man, who identified himself as a delivery man of RCPI, a telegram company, went to Toengi's house at about 4:30 p.m. on Thursday.

Inar said she saw another man in denim pants standing near the open steel gate of the house. But she said she ignored him thinking he was a companion of the delivery man.

Toengi's sister, Sharon, said she noticed two men at the gate that same afternoon, but she too ignored them. She said a houseboy opened the gate and left it open.

TOENGI

The robbers apparently took advantage of the open gate, entered the house and took off with some P1 million worth of jewelry, $7,500 and P800 cash, a $3,000 Canon digital camera, $3,000 worth of Longines ladies wristwatches, two Gucci ladies wristwatches worth $850, and a Pentax Camera worth $150.

Mandaluyong police chief Supt. Jose Gentiles said he believed that Inar was busy entertaining the delivery man when the suspects destroyed the screen at the back door and entered the house with an improvised key.

Gentiles said a police artist is now drawing the cartographic sketches of the suspects as described by Inar and Sharon.

"We would compare the cartographic sketches of rogue criminals in our possession so we could identify and arrest them," Gentiles said.

Fake US bonds made in RP, says Secret Service man

By Alcuin Papa

THE PHILIPPINES has earned a new reputation.

The country could now be known as the production center of fake "US Federal Reserve Bonds," which police found on three men on Saturday in Makati City and authorities seized last week from a syndicate in Cagayan De Oro City.

David Popp, a US Treasury and Secret Service attaché of the US Embassy, told the Inquirer that the fake bonds authorities seized in Cagayan De Oro and Makati were "local" products.

"It's purely a Philippine-made and manufactured scam," Popp said. "There are more found here than in the rest of the world. About 99 percent of those fake papers are in the Philippines so it's a case of locals victimizing locals."

Popp said it was likely the syndicate producing the fake notes was local and not an international syndicate. But he said that US Treasury agents see the papers "occasionally" outside of the country.

He said the group's modus operandi was to approach unsuspecting people with the fake papers telling them the papers had been found in a plane crash.

The syndicate would then ask the victim a certain amount, like P100,000, ostensibly to buy a plane ticket to the United States to exchange the fake papers for US dollars, Popp said.

The victim would be promised a hefty interest on his money. But the suspects would just disappear with the money, Popp said.

He noted that the fake notes were made using the ordinary personal computer and laser printer.

He said the base of the syndicate could be either in Cagayan De Oro or Malaybalay in Bukidnon. But this would be hard to determine exactly since a PC could easily be moved around, he said.

But Popp said the US Treasury Department and the Secret Service have had "good success with the PNP and the NBI" in busting the syndicates.

Some $127 billion worth of fake US financial documents were seized by the members of the Southern Police District from three men making trouble in front of a Makati karaoke bar last Saturday.

Investigators said the cache was similar to the $2 trillion fake US financial papers which were seized in Cagayan De Oro also last Saturday.

Police have arrested two suspects in Cagayan De Oro and are set to arrest four more in connection with the Makati bust.

Popp had branded the papers "worthless."

"The US government issues no such papers," Popp told the INQUIRER. "These are worthless. It's a shame really."

Police would be filing charges of violation of paragraph 166 of the Penal Code against all the suspects.

Motorists . . .

(From page A19)

their group. He called on others concerned to participate in the motorcade and noise barrage.

He denounced the planned increases as "unreasonable and absurd."

If the increases are implemented, Junia said, motorists would be paying P100 from Nichols to Southwoods.

"Citra and the PNCC promised that traffic on the expressway would improve and travel time between the Alabang and Nichols toll gates would be reduced by 15 minutes," Junia said. "But this has not happened."

He added the two companies made these promises in early 1999 to justify the first toll rate increase.

Junia said traffic on the expressway has not improved since the promises were made. His group has petitioned the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) to force Citra to refund toll paid from 1999 to the present.

"We strongly believe we have been shortchanged by Citra," Junia said. "The fact is, traffic on the SLEX is still horrendous. We have every reason to ask for a refund."

In December, Citra filed a petition with the TRB to increase rates, saying they needed to service their foreign loans that increased due to the peso's devaluation against the dollar.

In the Citra proposal, car drivers using the SLEX are expected to pay a total of P75 from Magallanes to Alabang instead of the present P22.50, an increase of more than 200 percent.

Anna Gamboa of Citra explained that they made the proposal to even up the toll rates of the Skyway and SLEX, from Nichols to Muntinlupa.

That way, she said, "the Skyway would be more affordable."

Citra wants to increase toll fees at the elevated Skyway from P55 to P75 for cars, from P110 to P190 for Class 2 vehicles, and from P165 to P300 for Class 3 vehicles.

The Skyway runs from Buendia to Bicutan.

At the ground-level SLEX running from Magallanes to Bicutan, Citra wants to raise rates from P10.50 to P35 for cars, from P10.50 to P90 for Class 2 vehicles, and from P31.50 to P140 for Class 3 vehicles.

From Bicutan to Sucat: from P6 to P20 for cars, from P12 to P50 for Class 2 vehicles, and from 18.50 to P80 for Class 3 vehicles.

From Sucat to Alabang: from P6 to P20 for cars, from P11.50 to P50 for Class 2 vehicles, and from P17.50 to P80 for Class 3 vehicles.

CONTRABAND CELL PHONES
Customs Commissioner Titus Villanueva (right) and Customs Collector Celso Tempo examine boxes of about P30 million worth of smuggled cellular phones that arrived on a Cathay Pacific flight on Tuesday. ROGER MARGALLO

People Power in photos

TO CAPTURE the spirit that moved Filipinos to stage the Edsa People Power I and II, the Department of Tourism has a multi-media presentation dubbed as "Capturing the Spirit of Edsa" until March 1, 2001 at the Robinson's Galleria in Pasig City.

More than 100 still photos catching the drama that unfolded during the height of People Power of 1986 and 2001 are on display. The photos were taken by both professional and amateur photographers.

These striking images will tell the tales of the two Edsa revolutions that have seized the attention of the world.

To be showcased alongside the photos are images paying homage to the black-garbed text-generation youth who were the big heroes of Edsa II.

Jinggoy's aid won't help Ipe win, says Mayor Abalos

MANDALUYONG City Mayor Benhur Abalos yesterday expressed doubt that the alleged support of San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada could help his long-time show biz friend Phillip Salvador become the city's vice mayor.

Abalos made this statement in reaction to reports that Estrada would financially back Salvador's political career.

Abalos said it was expected that Estrada would give his full support to Salvador as the latter has been loyal to the Estrada family even during its toughest times.

"I do not see anything wrong when a friend helps another," Abalos said. "It is his right and privilege to help Salvador, who is his fellow actor. He could do that under a democracy."

But he was quick to add: "Could Jinggoy swing the confidence of 180,000 registered voters in favor of Salvador?"

Abalos, however, pointed out that Salvador, like deposed President Joseph Estrada, had children with mistresses, and this might pose serious problems if he would be elected.

Salvador is the running mate of mayoral aspirant Ernesto Domingo under the Partido ng Masang Pilipino (PMP), which was founded by the former President.

The young Estrada, being the PMP-National Capital Region chair, was present during the launch of Salvador's "Kaibigan Ko si Ipe" and "Ka-Ipe Movement." "That's how it is among friends," Mayor Estrada was quoted as saying. "We don't abandon each other."

ABALOS

Hatfield arrested

(From page A19)

P/Insp. Dominador Raymundo and a police team served Hatfield the warrant of arrest issued by Judge Dina Teves of the Makati Regional Trial Court at about 3 p.m. yesterday.

It was learned that the warrant also named former Tanduay import Ira Clark as respondent, but the latter had already left the country.

The complainants were identified as Juan Ignacio Araneta and his wife Michelle Lara Araneta, of Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa.

Hatfield was having a pre-game practice with other members of the Pop Cola team in preparation for their game against Alaska on Sunday when the warrant was served.

Team manager Elmer Yanga, who earlier appealed to the arresting officers to let the practice finish first, accompanied Hatfield in processing his release papers in court.

Hatfield was temporarily released after he posted a P7,000 bond.

He admitted that he was surprised by the arrest. He said he thought the case was already over, noting that it happened almost a year ago.

Police records showed that the alleged beating took place at the Where Else Disco of the Hotel Intercontinental.

Hatfield and Clark were in the disco one night when Clark approached a woman, identified later as Mrs. Araneta, and started a conversation with her.

Hatfield said the woman's husband got jealous, after which a shoving match ensued. He said he tried to mediate but the husband turned on him.

"I only acted in self-defense since he (Araneta) was about to hit me," Hatfield explained.

He also expressed surprise when he saw the medical certificate that said the woman sustained several body injuries.

"I don't even know where the girl got the injuries," Hatfield said. "She was far from us during the shoving."

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6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	VERTICAL LIMIT
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
9	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
10	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
11	DOLBY SURROUND	DEMON GATE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	FAMILY MAN

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4	DTS	CAST AWAY
5	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
6	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
9	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN
2	DOLBY SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DEMON GATE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	TUHOG
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SNATCH
6	DOLBY SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
7	DTS	PAY IT FORWARD
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	CAST AWAY
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
10	DOLBY SURROUND	BOUNCE
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	FAMILY MAN
12	DOLBY SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SNATCH
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
4	ULTRA SURROUND	PAY IT FORWARD
5	ULTRA SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
7	ULTRA SURROUND	DEMON GATE
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	TUSONG TWOSOME
9	ULTRA SURROUND	WOMAN ON TOP
10	ULTRA SURROUND	WAY OF THE GUN

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1	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	102 DALMATIANS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUSONG TWOSOME
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG

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1	DOLBY SURROUND	CAST AWAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BOUNCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	VITAL PARTS
5	ULTRA SURROUND	PROOF OF LIFE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	VIRGIN WIFE
7	DOLBY SURROUND	THE YARDS

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2	ULTRA SURROUND	WHIPPED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	VERTICAL LIMIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	BOOBA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	MALIKOT ANG AGOS NG TUBIG
6	ULTRA SURROUND	CAST AWAY
7	ULTRA SURROUND	LITTLE NICKY
8	ULTRA SURROUND	THE YARDS

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1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CAST AWAY
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	102 DALMATIANS
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CONTENDER
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	HAPLOS
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	TUHOG
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1 RESERVE
2 TUHOG
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

Spring
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1 TUSONG TWOSOME
A ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626
1
3

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City
(Manila) tel 734.8568
1 (DOLBY) CAST AWAY
2 WAY OF THE GUN
3 DEMON GATE
4 FAMILY MAN
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6 TUHOG
7 (DTS) PAY IT FORWARD
8 (SDDS) SNATCH
9 (DOLBY) WOMAN ON TOP

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3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4 TUHOG
5
6

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781
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2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
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7 (DTS) CAST AWAY
8 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
9 WAY OF THE GUN

Commonwealth
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8 HAPLOS

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2 HAPLOS
3 (DTS) ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4 TUHOG
5 (SDDS) 102 DALMATIANS
6 (DOLBY) PAY IT FORWARD
7 (DOLBY) TUSONG TWOSOME

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470
1 TUHOG

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888
1 TUHOG

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724
Dilson TUHOG
Lords HAPLOS
Jennet TUHOG

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 TUHOG
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 PAY IT FORWARD
4 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215
1
3 TUSONG TWOSOME

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238
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2 TUHOG
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4 TUSONG TWOSOME
5 PAY IT FORWARD

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619
1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 TUHOG
3 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4 MADAM X
5 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
6 KING COBRA 5

Baclaran LRT Cinema
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1 TUHOG
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198
1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 TUHOG
3 (DTS) CAST AWAY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 TUHOG
2 (DTS) TUSONG TWOSOME
3 (DOLBY) CAST AWAY
4 HAPLOS

Llanas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 (SDDS) TUHOG
2 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
3 WAY OF THE GUN
4 (DTS) TUSONG TWOSOME

Llanas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE CONTENDER
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 (DTS) CAST AWAY
4 TUHOG
5 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883
1 TUHOG
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101
1 TUHOG
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311
1 HAPLOS
2 102 DALMATIANS
3 IKA - 7 GLORYA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736
1 THE CONTENDER
2 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
3 TUSONG TWOSOME

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376
1 TUSONG TWOSOME
2 TUHOG
3 ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
4 HAPLOS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 243.2783
1 (DTS) TUHOG
2 (DTS) HAPLOS

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385
1 TUSONG TWOSOME

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657
1 SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 VIRGIN WIFE
2 VITAL PARTS
3 BALA KO ANG BAHALA SA 'YO
4 WHAT WOMEN WANT

Berma
tel 879.2168
1
2

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269
1 CAST AWAY
2 TUHOG
3 TUSONG TWOSOME
4 102 DALMATIANS

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 (DOLBY EX) CAST AWAY
2 TUSONG TWOSOME
3 FAMILY MAN
4 (DTS EX) 102 DALMATIANS

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a special presentation

'Saigon' new cast better than the last–Gordon

TOURISM Secretary Richard Gordon has expressed full support of the Manila production of "Miss Saigon," saying it will spur the development of Philippine theater and help make the country the "performing center" of Asia.

Before watching a recent performance of "Miss Saigon," Gordon told media people the musical is a "step in the right direction," toward the promotion of the country as a tourist destination.

"This is where we are very, very good," he said, referring to the performing arts. "And with the Philippines being at the center of Asia, we could be the performing center of the region."

Gordon watched the show with his wife Kate and British Ambassador to the Philippines Allan Collins.

After the show, Gordon also praised the new cast, saying its members are "practically even better than the previous cast."

He invited Filipinos to watch the play that has launched numerous Filipino artists, led by Lea Salonga, to international stardom.

Cez Campos and Ima Castro have taken over the role of Kim, the Vietnamese bar girl of the title, and have earned rave reviews for their performances.

Scot Anson has taken the place of Will Chase as the American soldier Cris who figures in a tragic love affair with Kim.

Short films at SM City

AFTER the Feb. 7 opening of the 8th Annual Pelikula at Lipunan 2001 in SM City Iloilo, the annual film festival has moved on to SM City Manila Cinema 9 where it goes on until Feb. 27.

Included in the festival are this year's 14th Gawad CCP-winning films by young Filipino filmmakers.

The festival presents a program of Australian short films called "Short Black" today and tomorrow at 1:30 p.m., at SM City Manila Cinema 9.

The selection of films explores the complexity and diversity of being Australian. Humorous, creative and thought provoking, the films reveal how Australians perceive such issues as the republican vs monarchy debate, sexuality, spiritualism, sports, multi-culturalism, environment, music, and the youth.

The 8th Annual Pelikula at Lipunan 2001 is presented by the Mowelfund Film Institute in cooperation with the Australian Embassy Manila through the sponsorship of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Kodak Philippines, and New Pagcor.

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- ❶ VERTICAL LIMIT
- ❷ CAST AWAY
- ❸ WHAT WOMEN WANT
- ❹ BOUNCE
- ❺ TABI TABI PO
- ❻ SYOTA NG BAYAN

DOLBY dts SDDS

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	TUHOG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	TUSONG 2 SOME
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	CAST AWAY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	SNATCH
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	PAY IT FORWARD
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	102 DALMATIANS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	WAY OF THE GUN
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	PAY IT FORWARD
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	TUHOG
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	PAY IT FORWARD
MIRAMAR	ARAYY / HUNGER FOR LOVE
ODEON	WAY OF THE GUN
ODEON-2	SHADOW OF MARTIAL ARTS
ROBEN	TUSONG 2 SOME
TANDEM-1	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
TANDEM-2	IKA - 7 GLORYA
TIMES	UNBREAKABLE / REPLACEMENT
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	ANAK NG YAKUSA
ACT-2	ANAK NG KANO
ACT-3	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
ACT-4	TURN ON
CORONET-2	TUHOG
QUEZON-1	TUSONG 2 SOME
REMAR	TUSONG 2 SOME
REMAR-2	SHADOW OF MARTIAL ARTS
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	TUHOG
OCEAN CINEMA-A	BOYFRIEND KONG PARI
OCEAN CINEMA-B	KATAYAN
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-2	SNATCH
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	TUHOG
CINEMA-2	TUSONG TWOSOME
CINEMA-3	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WAY OF THE GUN
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	VERTICAL LIMIT
CINEMA-6	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-7	VIRGIN WIFE
CINEMA-8	ROARING LION RAGING DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-12	SNATCH
CINEMA-14	DEMON GATE
CINEMA-15	TUSONG TWOSOME
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SA IYONG MGA HAPLOS
CINEMA-3	LAKAS AT PAG IBIG
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	102 DALMATIANS
CINEMA-2	CAST AWAY
CINEMA-3	PAY IT FORWARD
CINEMA-4	FAMILY MAN
CINEMA-5	SNATCH
CINEMA-6	WOMAN ON TOP

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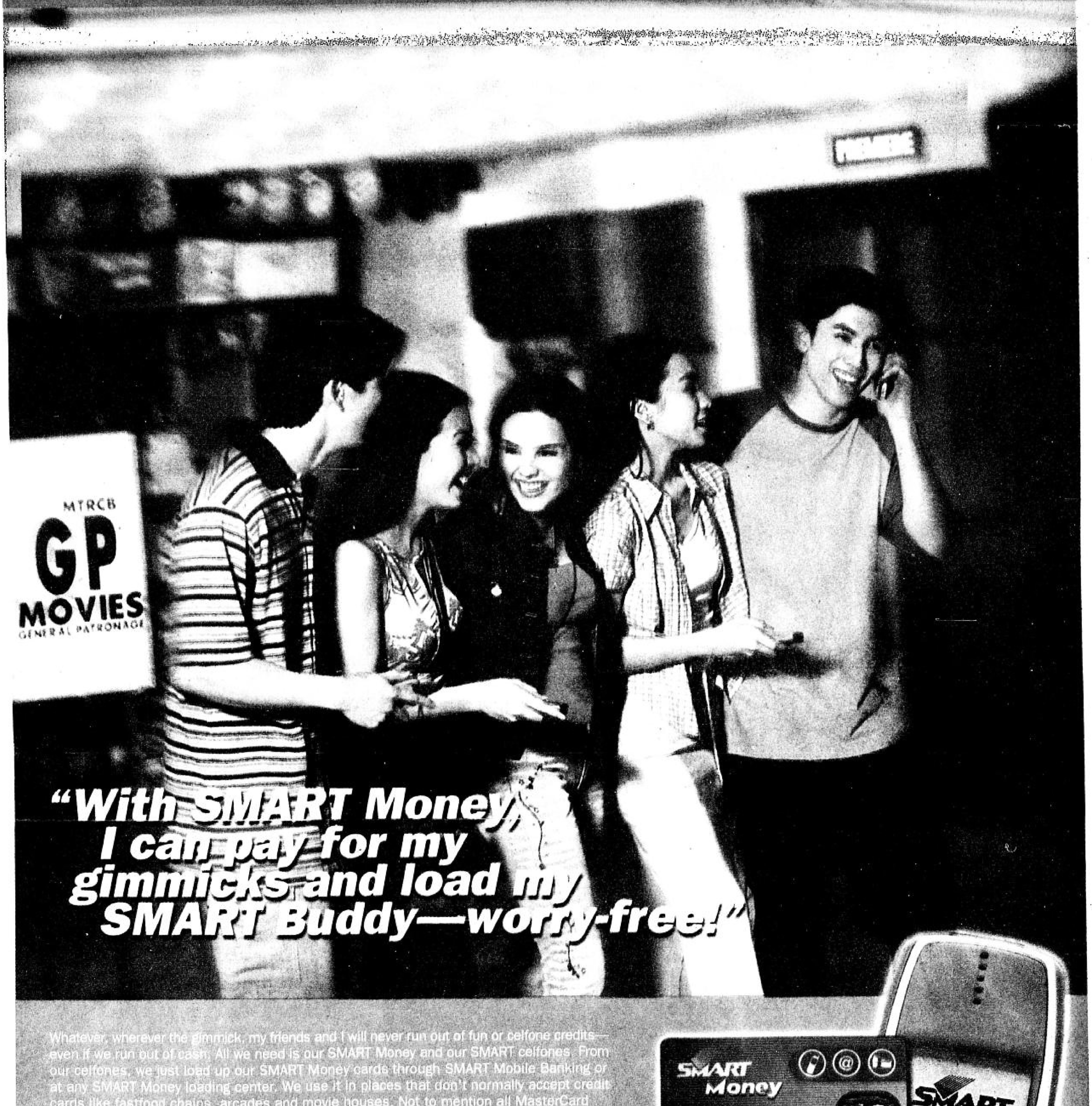
Hear the Difference, Feel the Excitement

The gang's all set for our weekend mall attack! Now we're ready to hit the record bars, invade the arcade and get freaked out by the latest horror flick. My wallet's dehydrated and so is my celfone... but with my SMART Money, I'm not scared at all.

SMART Money



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   - *c. If transaction is approved, message is sent to POS terminal and the sales slip is printed.*
   - *d. Sign on the dotted line and you're off!*
   - *e. You will receive a text confirmation of your transaction.*

   Non face-to-face (remote) Purchase
   - *a. Call the store to order items, advise the order taker that you will be paying through SMART Money MasterCard.*
   - *b. Give the order taker your 12-digit MCOM number.*
   - *c. If transaction is validated, a payment request message is sent to your celfone.*
   - *d. To accept payment request, press ACCEPT, key in your W-PIN and press OK. To cancel the transaction, click on REJECT.*
   - *e. System validates your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account is debited.*
   - *f. You will receive a text message to acknowledge your transaction.*

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   - *b. From SMART MONEY menu, click on TRANSFER.*
   - *c. Key in the 12-digit MCOM number of the recipient party and press OK.*
   - *d. Select a preset amount and press OK.*
   - *e. Key in your W-PIN and press OK.*
   - *f. The SMART Money MasterCard system verifies your W-PIN, account status, and SMART Money MasterCard funds. If details are validated, your SMART Money MasterCard account will then be debited and the value is transferred to the recipient.*
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The Philippine Montessori Center Children's Musical Ensemble will perform in "Ryan and Friends" with composer Ryan Cayabyab, on March 2, 2001 at the AFP Theater in Quezon City. Proceeds from the concert will be used to help build the school's dream elementary school, Temple Hill International School, a non-profit, non-stock institution with low enrolment, low teacher-pupil ratio, well-equipped classrooms and excellent facilities. For details, call 911-4838 or 911-4889.

SHAGGY

'Mr. Boombastic' has new hit

REGGAE-POP star Shaggy has grabbed the No. 1 slot in the US music charts with his album "Hot Shot."

The Jamaican-born artist's album is distributed in the Philippines by MCA Universal.

The album's lead single, "Angel," occupies the No. 1 spot in Billboard magazines single's chart.

Shaggy is best remembered for his hits "Oh Carolina," and "Mr. Boombastic," which established him as a global reggae and pop crossover king.

Shaggy's newest album is packed with party vibes on various themes, from a fairly serious message in "Hope" to a remake of the '70s classic "Angel" to the sensual "Luv Me Luv Me." Music critics have described "Hot Shots" as the most upbeat and the sexiest party record of the year.

"This album is a roller coaster ride that reveals different sides of my musical personality,". says Shaggy.

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ALABANG TOWN CENTER 12:15 AM
GLORIETTA 4 11:10 PM
GREENBELT 10:30 PM

SNATCH (R)
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THE FAMILY MAN - P 13 10:30, 12:40, 2:50, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00, 11:20	SNATCH - R 18 12:45, 2:55, 5:05, 7:15, 9:30	102 DALMATIANS - G 10:30, 12:20, 2:35, 4:50, 7:05, 9:20

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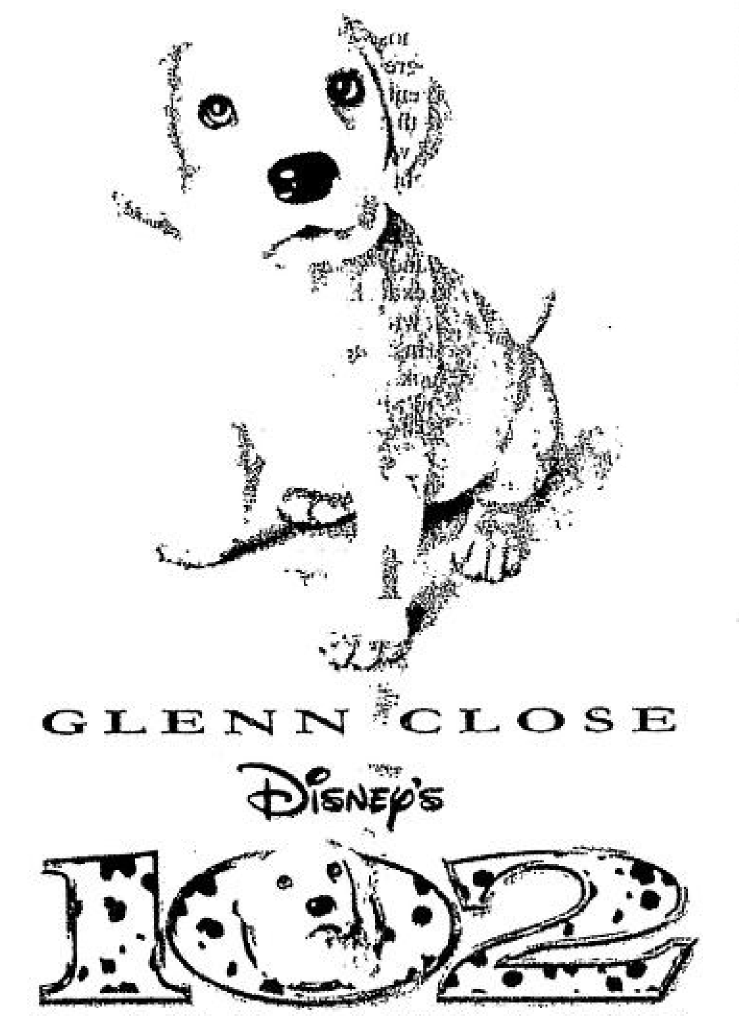

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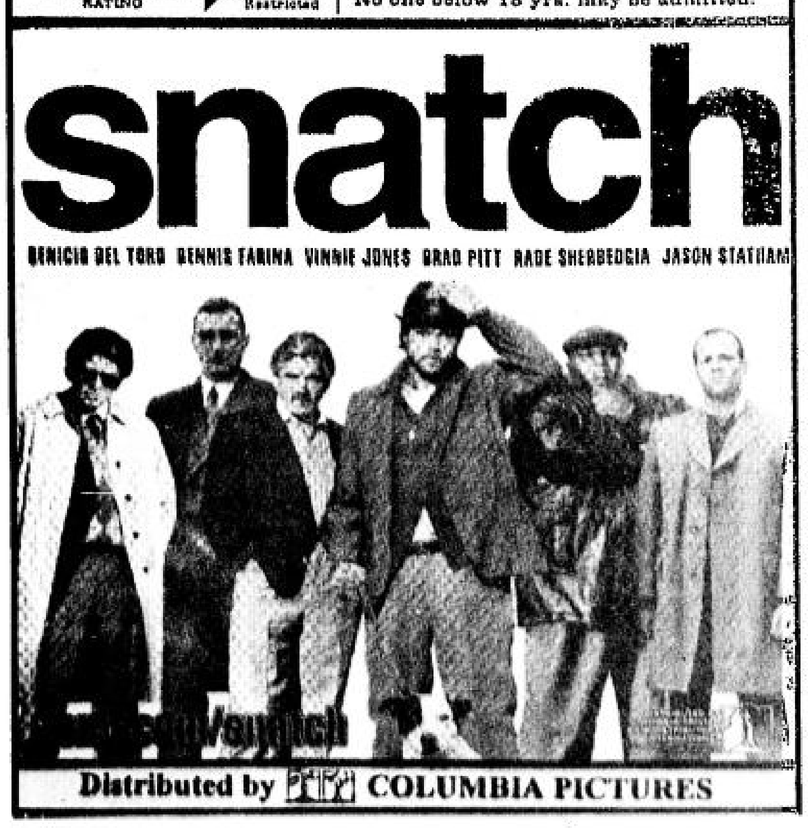

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Ridley Scott's 'Hannibal' a nightmare worth revisiting

By Paul Daza

REVIEW

FOR those who've been waiting 10 years to find out what happened after Hannibal "The Cannibal" Lecter escaped from jail at the end of the Oscar-winning serial killer thriller "The Silence of The Lambs," "Hannibal" is a sequel you shouldn't miss.

Those who have read the book and hated the ending will be very curious to see how two of the most talented scriptwriters of our time—David Mamet ("The Untouchables") and Steven Zaillian "Schindler's List")—tried to cure the problem in the film.

The source of the controversy was the way the book sealed the relationship between Lecter and FBI Agent Clarice Starling. Without revealing any surprises, all I'll say is that the film puts a chilling but different spin on the relationship between Lecter and Starling.

As one who in fact liked the way "Hannibal" the Thomas Harris novel ended, my take on the whole matter is that you don't often get two conclusions to the same story. What has happened to "Hannibal" is that it's now like a DVD or laser disc of a movie released with an alternate ending. Only in the case of "Hannibal," one ending is found in a book, another is in a movie. Take your pick as to which one you favor.

I'm fond of both endings, and I'm sure there'll be those who won't like either one.

Creepiest element

Because "Hannibal" is helmed by "Gladiator" director Ridley Scott, who is venerated by film fans for his meticulous approach to lighting and art direction, the best place to view the film is in a theater. Only on a 40-foot screen can one truly be awed by the film's many magnificent locations, particularly Florence, Italy, and the largest private home in North America, the Biltmore Estate.

In the film, the Biltmore Estate is transformed into the estate of Lecter's only surviving victim, the disfigured Mason Verger. Those who've read the "Hannibal" novel will agree that Mason Verger was the creepiest element introduced by author Harris. And when I read that Gary Oldman from "Bram Stoker's Dracula" was playing Mason Verger in the film, I thought it was another rare instance of perfect casting.

Oldman is hideously effective as the billionaire with only half a face left, and he will stop at nothing to capture Lecter and exact his revenge. Watching Oldman play Verger with all that horrifying make-up, you're caught in a quandary as a viewer: You don't want to look at his horribly mutilated face, and yet you can't take your eyes away from it.

Spine-tingling

Easier on the eyes is Julianne Moore, who takes over from Jodie Foster in the role of Clarice Starling. I won't deny that I will always wonder how Foster would have approached the role of Starling 10 years after the events in "The Silence of the Lambs," but what's the use?

Moore is a superbly resourceful actress and she steps effortlessly into the part that won Foster her second Oscar.

The best measure of Moore's talent is a scene in "Hannibal" where she and Lecter (Anthony Hopkins, reprising his Oscar-winning role) speak to each other again for the first time in years: A shudder of electricity went through me because the sequence was unexpected and spine-tingling. When this happened, I knew I was reacting more to the electrifying reunion of two unforgettable **characters**, rather than to a new actor-actress pairing.

Needless to say, I have no complaints about Hopkins' portrayal of Lecter. Whenever the evil doctor is on screen, you can't help but pray that he stays there.

Aspiring scriptwriters can also learn a great deal by seeing how "Hannibal's" scriptwriters streamlined Harris' intimidating book and created a screenplay which not only captures the essence and tone of the novel but tries to cure that unpopular ending creatively and intelligently.

Music as character

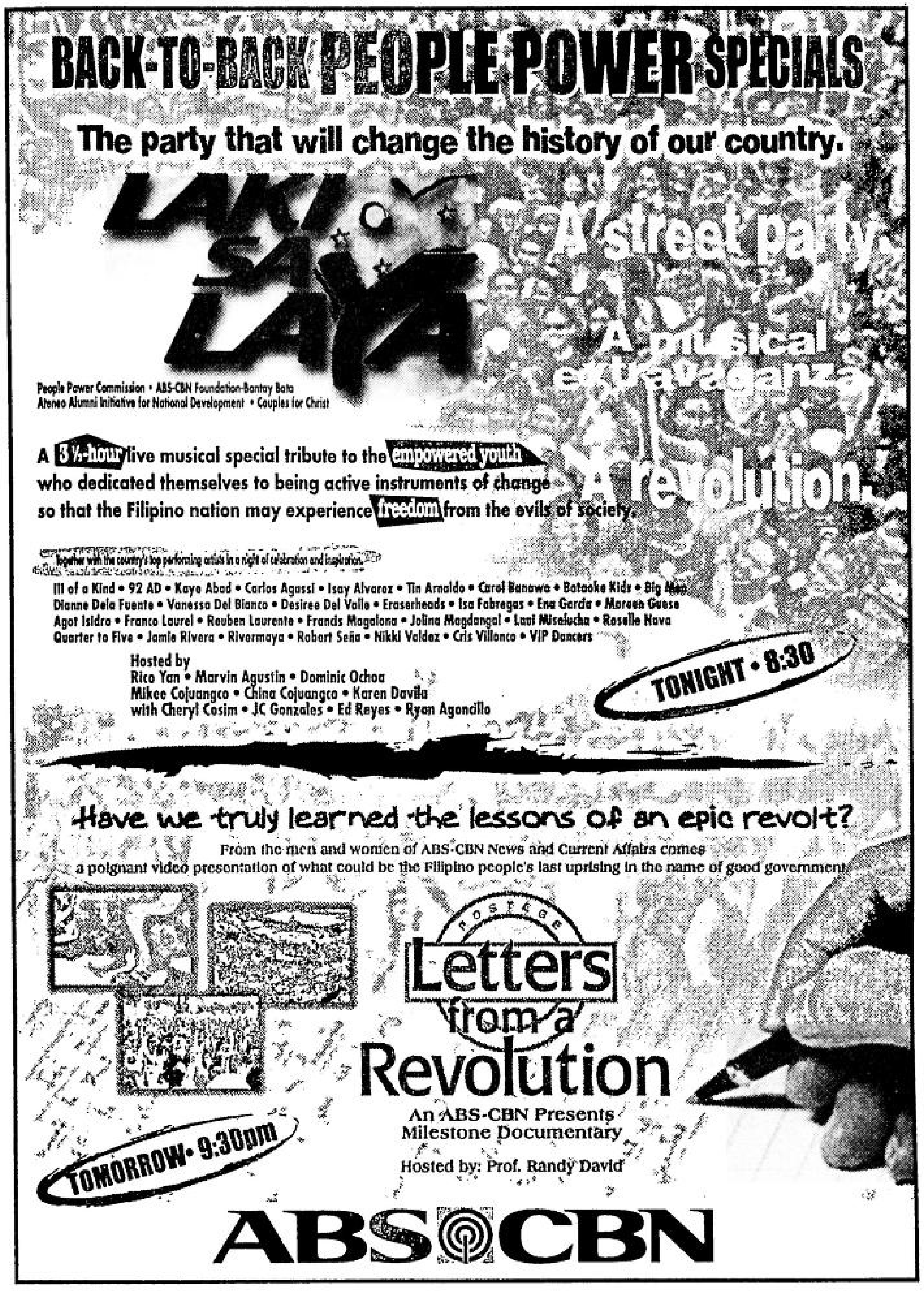
The movie deletes the characters of Jack Crawford and Mason Verger's sister, who played a pivotal role in the book, but the adaptation is so seamless that you won't miss any of these characters while watching the movie.

A music score by Hans Zimmer is one "character" which the film is lucky enough to employ. Zimmer's original music for "Hannibal" borrows heavily from the eight-note main theme from "The Silence of the Lambs." And as in "Silence," "Hannibal" uses well-known classical music to shocking effect.

In "Silence," Bach's Goldberg variations punctuated Lecter's rampage in the museum. In "Hannibal," Strauss' Blue Danube Waltz is used to provide eerie contrast to a harrowing encounter between Lecter and another victim.

"Hannibal" is one nightmare I'd like to revisit. The movie is so dense with detail in all aspects of the production that I'm sure a second and third viewing will reveal things I didn't catch the first time.

My favorite line from the film? "You should try new things when you're young."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Hosted by: Prof. Randy David
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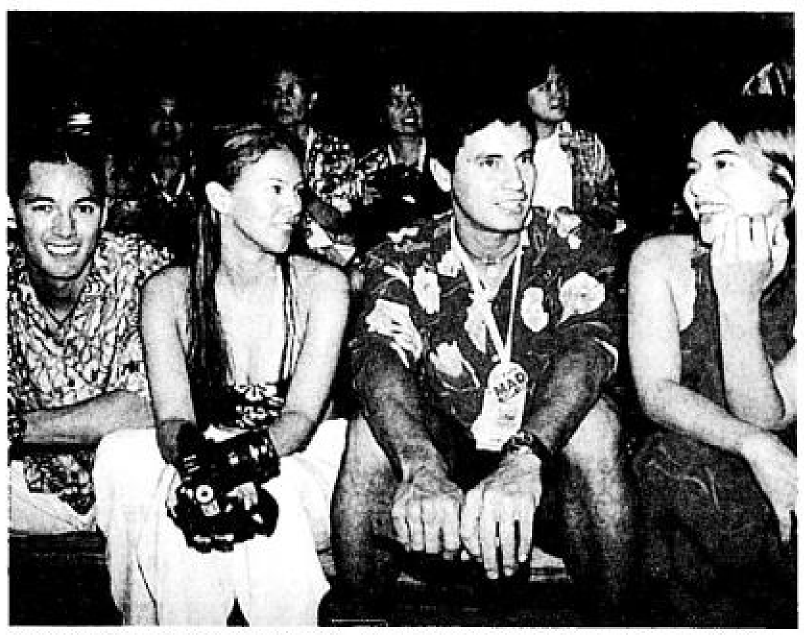
Boracay's stormy skies clear up for Goma Cup


GOOD TIMES WITH GOMA. Richard Gomez joins (from left) Marc Nelson, Patricia Javier and Klaudia Koronel.

THE GODS were kind to the party set of the Goma Cup: Rains stopped and the skies cleared to give way to nightly theme parties hosted by Premiere Wine & Spirits, distributors of Absolut Vodka and Chivas Regal, in pristine Boracay.

The nightly beach parties were held in Boracay bars such as Summer Place, Beachcomber and the newest hip party center of the island, Hey Jude.

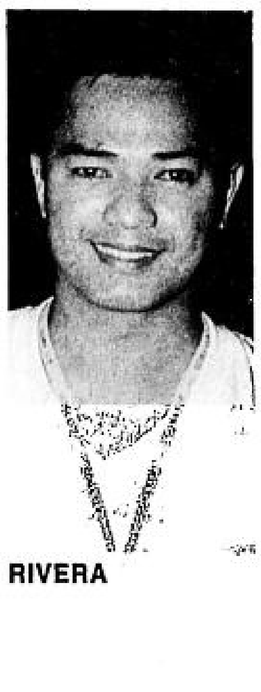
The first party to welcome the more than a hundred celebrity and professional golfers to the Goma Cup golf competition was aptly a downbeat, chill-out Chivas Regal bash held at Summer Place. Heading the Chivas guest list was the king of the event himself, Richard Gomez, together with wife Lucy Torres, Thirdy Escano, Mark Anthony Fernandez, Mon del Rosario, Emy Arcilla, Bert Nievera, Hajji Alejandro, Leah Navarro and many others.

James and John Yap, owners of Summer Place, made sure the ambience of the bar was festive yet relaxing. DJs Erwin Edralin of ABGs and Don-Don Renato of Kemistry played house music.

Absolut Vodka's Funky Purple Beats Night held at Beachcomber on the second night was a smashing success as show biz celebrities crowded the dance floor.

Hey Jude was home to the Goma Cup party set, at least for one evening as Absolut Vodka threw another successful Funky Purple Night. Event director Erich Edralin of Adrenalin Productions installed black lights to create the dramatic effect of shimmer and shine as the guests were requested to wear all white.

Chic and savvy was the last party held at Beachcomber as Chivas Regal threw a despedida of sorts.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BUSINESS

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BSP, PNB reach deal on ₱15-B debt

BY DORIS C. DUMLAO

PHILIPPINE National Bank and the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas have agreed on a rehabilitation program involving a P15-billion debt reduction scheme and the opening of a new liquidity mechanism.

The approval of the much-awaited rehabilitation plan yesterday perked up investor interest in PNB shares, which closed higher by P4 at P40 at the Philippine Stock Exchange. PNB was among the day's top gainers and the most actively traded at the local bourse.

The price rise was triggered by a disclosure to the PSE by PNB corporate secretary Roderick Salazar III that the BSP had already approved in principle the settlement of its cash advances to the bank through a combination of dacion en pago (asset swap) and debt restructuring.

Likewise disclosed was the opening by the BSP of a new financing window for PNB, which is controlled by tobacco magnate Lucio Tan, to allow the bank to rediscount eligible receivables from its borrowers.

Salazar said the rediscounting window would "allow PNB to pay off higher cost funds and thus reduce cost of operations."

Based on the scheme drawn up with the BSP, funds obtained by PNB through the rediscounting window would carry an interest rate 1 percentage point below the average 91-day treasury bill rate for the last auction of the immediately preceding month.

On the other hand, P10 billion of the P15 billion in cash advances from the BSP would be repaid using real estate assets. The remaining P5 billion would be repaid over eight years at market interest rates and secured by good loans.

The BSP is not allowed by law to accept worthless loan papers from banks which had received financial assistance. Under Section 84 of the New Central Bank Act, any liquidity assistance given by the BSP to banks should be backed by first class collaterals.

Former PSE chair and current Summit Securities president Harry Liu said the rehabilitation plan approved by the BSP helped make PNB shares attractive.

"The reason why PNB shares went down was due to the liquidity issue but if this rehab plan would help it financially, then it will definitely improve share prices. But up to how much its prices will recover would depend on earnings forecasts," Liu said.

The BSP and the state-run Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. extended a P25-billion loan to PNB to avert bank runs in September last year. Of this amount, P15 billion was contributed by the BSP.

The asset-swap component of the rehabilitation plan would allow PNB to immediately reduce its debts to the BSP by P10 billion as against Tan's original request that all of these loans be restructured for a period of eight years.

After the major stockholder agreed to the restoration of the government equity in PNB to 30 percent within three years, the BSP has urged PNB to focus on strengthening its management, instituting cost-reduction measures through rationalization of the branches and offices, and reviewing operating income and expenses and its loan portfolio mix.

JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2000

BOP posts $918-M deficit due to capital flight

BY CLARISSA S. BATINO

CAPITAL flight eroded the country's balance-of-payments position in the first 11 months last year as the BOP deficit reached $918 million from a surplus of $3.29 billion in the same period in 1999.

The end-November deficit, however, registered a slight improvement from the end-October level of $950 million, based on documents from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The deficit was incurred despite a current account surplus of $7.6 billion in the same period, higher by $1.6 billion than the programmed level set by the government.

The current account surplus was slightly higher than the $7.44-billion surplus in the same year-ago period.

"The current account surplus surged ... due mainly to the strong performance of exports which grew by 8.1 percent during the first eleven months of 2000," the BSP said in a statement.

It said the capital and financial account posted a deficit of $4.9 billion during the period, higher than the programmed level, mainly due to higher net outflow of short-term capital and lower availments of medium- and long-term loans.

The capital and financial account deficit was substantially higher than the $706-million deficit in January to November 1999.

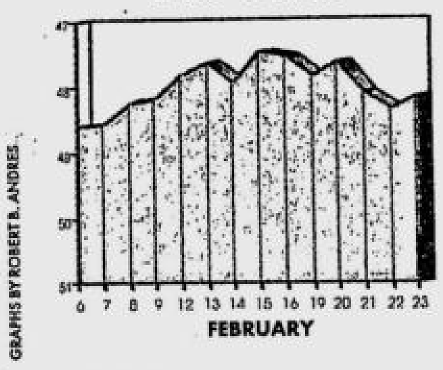
Net foreign direct investments in the 11-month period surged to $1.446 billion as against only $618 million in the previous year. Inflows went mostly to the telecommunications, banking, electronics and automotive industries, the bank said.

Portfolio investments during the period posted a net inflow of $37 million, way below the $4.39 billion posted the year earlier, reflecting the decline in foreign investments in the stock market due to economic and political uncertainties last year.

The 11-month BOP also included a deficit in net unclassified items amounting to $3.58 billion as against a deficit of $3.45 billion a year earlier. *With a report from Reuters*

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

₱48.16 = $1

As of 5 p.m.,
Feb. 23, 2001

¥ 116.82/85= $1

The US dollar was trading at 116.82/85 as of 5 p.m., Feb. 23, 2001

GOLD:$259.70/260.20

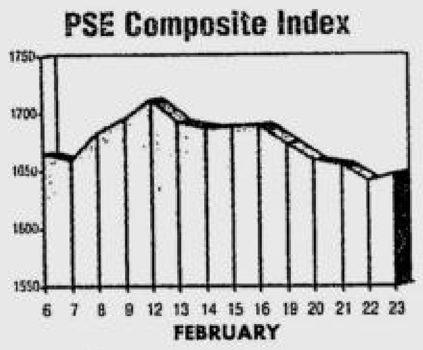
per ounce Hong Kong,
Feb. 23, 2001

Feb. 23, 2001 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.105583	1.000000	48.2340
Japan	Yen	0.009456	0.008553	0.4125
United Kingdom	Pound	1.600663	1.447800	69.8332
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.141745	0.128208	6.1840
Switzerland	Franc	0.652569	0.590249	28.4701
Canada	Dollar	0.718565	0.649942	31.3493
Singapore	Dollar	0.633753	0.573230	27.6492
Australia	Dollar	0.580084	0.524686	25.3077
Bahrain	Dinar	2.932737	2.652661	127.9485
Kuwait	Dinar	N/A	N/A	N/A
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.294798	0.266645	12.8614
Brunei	Dollar	0.632123	0.571755	27.5780
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000104	0.0050
Thailand	Baht	0.025741	0.023283	1.1230
UAE	Dirham	0.301044	0.272294	13.1338
Korea	Won	0.000891	0.000806	0.0389
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.904500	43.6277
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.462464	22.3065
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137890	6.6510
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.410444	19.7974
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065733	3.1706
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022422	1.0815
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000467	0.0225
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.152126	7.3376
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004512	0.2176
Spain	Peseta	0.006010	0.005436	0.2622
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.022422	1.0815
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.148478	55.3957

STOCK MARKET

Stocks rebound

STOCKS snapped a four-day losing streak to end slightly higher yesterday largely on a technical rebound with both local and foreign investors picking up bargains in the market.



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Traders said the market could sustain the rebound early next week but will largely be stuck in a consolidation phase because of a lack of news to entice investors.

The 33-share composite index added 5.95 points, or 0.36 percent, to end at 1,647 points. But for the week, the index lost 42.91 points, or 2.54 percent.

Turnover climbed to P592.06 million against Thursday's P485.47 million, with gainers outpacing losers, 44 to 28.

"There is some foreign buying, though quite light...It's nothing dramatic, it's more of a technical bounce," said Albert Chua, portfolio manager of All Asia Asset Management.

Allan Araullo, vice president of Regina Capital Securities, said the market might try to push up the index to near the 1,700 level next week, with players who are expecting corporate earnings to start improving in the first quarter leading the pack of bargain hunters. *Reuters*

Gov't suspends T-bond issues

THE BUREAU of Treasury said yesterday it would temporarily stop offering seven- and 10-year Treasury bonds, starting next week, to bring down the government's borrowing costs.

Traders said the move was logical and had led to an expected surge in demand for the seven- and 10-year paper in the secondary debt market.

In an interview with Reuters, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said there would be no auction of T-bonds next week.

"I think the government is paying high costs at this time. Instead of introducing new policy measures, we are drafting proposals that will hopefully bring down (costs at) the long-end," Edeza said.

"We will probably issue those tenors (seven and 10-year bonds) for benchmarking and not for regular auction," he said, adding however that the process was still under review.

Traders said the move would lead to lower costs for the government.

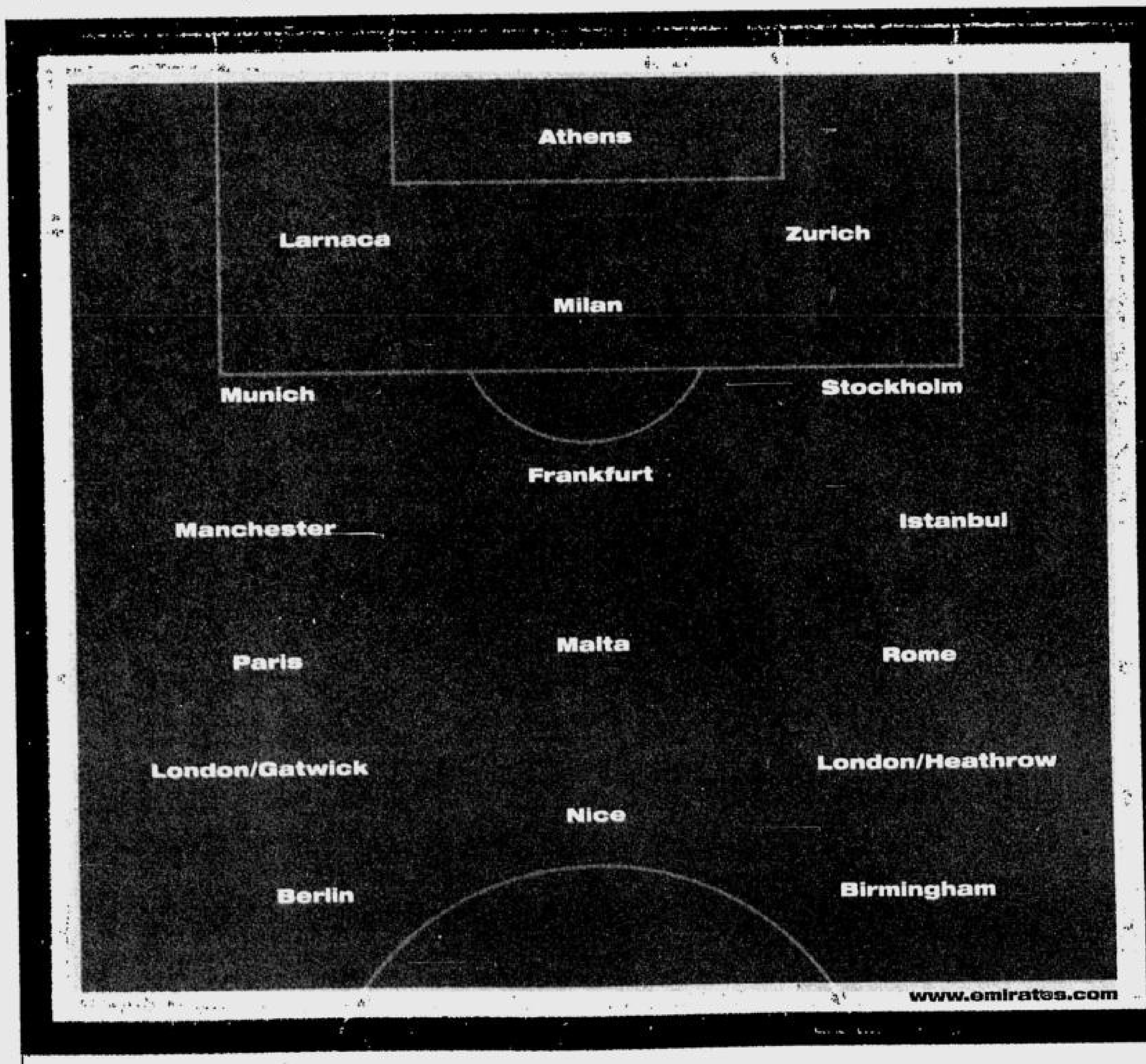
"From the point of view of the country as a whole, this would mean lesser interest expenses. But for banks who look at these tenors as positions on rate aberrations, they may take this as a lost opportunity," a trader from a foreign bank said. *Reuters*

INTEREST RATES

DAILY STATISTICAL INDICATORS

February 23, 2001

PARTICULARS	Today	Previous Day	Week Ago	Month Ago	Year Ago
Bangko Sentral R/P Rates (% p.a.) 1/					
23 February 2001					
Overnight R/P	13.2500	13.2500	13.2500	14.7500	11.0000
Interbank Call Loan Rate (% p.a.)					
22 February 2001					
Weighted Ave.	11.0938	11.1250	11.1250	12.5625	8.7813
High	11.1875	11.2500	11.3750	12.8750	9.2500
Low	11.0625	11.0625	11.0625	12.5625	8.6250
Promissory Note Rates (% p.a.) 2/					
23 February 2001					
60 Days	11.5000	11.2582	11.7500	N.T.	8.5000
Foreign Interest Rates (% p.a.)					
90-day LIBOR	5.3500	5.3700	5.4100	5.6000	6.1100
90-day SIBOR	5.3700	5.3800	5.4200	5.5800	6.1100
180-day LIBOR	5.1900	5.2200	5.3000	5.4500	6.3500
180-day SIBOR	5.2100	5.2300	5.3000	5.4500	6.3500



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Peza projects double-digit rise in investments, exports

By Gil C. Cabcungan Jr.

THE PHILIPPINE Economic Zone Authority expects to chalk up double-digit growth rates for investments and exports this year as business confidence rebounds with the change in the country's administration.

Peza is expecting investments in private and government economic zones to jump by 20 percent to P88.87 billion this year. It is also projecting a 15-percent rise in exports to $23.029 billion this year.

Peza Director General Lilia de Lima said most of the new investments and new exports this year would come from electronic companies.

Although this year's projected growth rates are slower than last year's, De Lima said this was only because Peza would be coming from a higher base this year.

Peza bucked the waning confidence in the Estrada administration as investors pumped in P74.056 billion in new investments last year, up 101 percent from P36.819 billion in 1999.

Peza has become the government's biggest investment generator with its more superior incentive package for export-oriented companies located in special business enclaves.

The continued inflow of investments should ensure the steady growth of exports from economic zones in the future as new and existing locators expand their production.

The agency also reported that exports zoomed to $20.025 billion in 2000 from $15.807 billion in 1999. Peza accounted for more than half of the country's $39 billion in total exports last year.

The Philippines is benefiting from the growing number of Japanese companies that are relocating some of their manufacturing operations overseas to cut costs. The Philippines has become one of their main destinations mainly because of its large pool of English-speaking and skilled workers who are rated highly for quality output.

Gov't readies list of new GFI heads

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE MACAPAGAL administration is expected to name soon former Bankers Association of the Philippines president Deogracias Vistan as UCPB chair and CEO, and former DBP vice chair Francisco del Rosario as the sequestered bank's president and COO.

Vistan and Del Rosario will replace Jeronimo Kilayko and Lorenzo Tan, respectively.

Sources said Vistan, currently vice chair of Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. and former president of Solid Banking Corp. (which was acquired by and merged with Metrobank) has already accepted the UCPB post.

Malacañang, according to sources, will appoint investment banker Jose Isidro Camacho, country manager of Deutsche Bank, as Development Bank of the Philippines chair while bank president Remedios Macalincag will be retained as president.

Land Bank of the Philippines president Margarito Teves was reportedly asked to keep his post. Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo sits as concurrent chair of Land Bank.

Both Macalincag and Teves resigned from their current posts at the height of the Edsa uprising that toppled former President Estrada.

UCPB was established using the controversial funds collected from coconut farmers during the time of Marcos. The government votes on its 95.29-percent stake in UCPB.

GMA WITH SEMICON INDUSTRY LEADERS

Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines chair and Amkor Technology Philippines president Tony Ng (left) escorts President Macapagal-Arroyo to the Makati Shangri-La Ballroom where she addressed members of Seipi, the association of electronics companies in the Philippines. In the said forum, Ms Macapagal assured the Seipi that her administration will address the sector's infrastructure requirement to enhance the industry's competitiveness. Also shown with the President and Ng are (second from left) Fedex chair Bert Lina, Seipi president Saturnino Belen (back of Ms Macapagal), Trade and Industry Secretary Mar Roxas II and Seipi executive director Ernesto Santiago.

3 firms offer to help Napocor raise cash

By Christine A. Gaylican

THREE foreign investment firms have offered to raise some P2 billion to help the National Power Corp. cover P22 billion it needs to continue operating this year.

In an interview yesterday, Napocor president Jesus Alcordo said he had been informed of proposals from JP Morgan Chase & Co. Inc., Lehman Brothers, and Citibank NA.

JP Morgan sent an unsolicited proposal to arrange a bond float that would raise about P2 billion for Napocor, Alcordo told reporters.

"This would have an interest rate of 11 to 15 percent payable in three to five years," he disclosed.

Alcordo said Lehman Brothers and Citibank were interested in arranging financial packages for Napocor, but they had yet to formally submit an offer.

Napocor estimates it may need about P22 billion this year for its capital expenditures and to pay off maturing liabilities.

The state-run power firm, mismanaged for years, has been running low on cash because its inability to generate profits has scared off key investors.

HSBC Corp.'s recent credit review of corporations in Asia discouraged investors from placing money in bonds issued by Napocor.

"We believe that the incremental yield pickup is marginal given Napocor bonds are illiquid, while investing directly on government bonds already offers adequate yield from a risk/reward perspective," the bank said.

HSBC added that the Philippine government's budget deficit would make it difficult for Napocor to get state subsidy to cover its needs.

The Asian Development Bank said earlier it would no longer extend loans to Napocor until Congress passed a bill to restructure the local energy sector.

In a letter to the Department of Finance, ADB country director Gunther Hecker said the ADB decided to suspend all financial assistance to Napocor.

Napocor has asked the ADB to again consider giving it loans even if it has failed to post an 8-percent return-on-rate-base, a measure of its profitability.

"Unfortunately, they (ADB) have indefinitely declined to grant us another waiver, which would really make it difficult for us to secure future borrowings," Napocor vice president for finance Antonio Ingco said in an interview.

Ingco said the ADB was underscoring the need for lawmakers to pass a power sector reform bill.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has scrapped discussions on this year's budget, deciding instead to pass a bill that will sell Napocor.

Renewed focus on power sector legislation could end four years of deliberations. Ms Macapagal said earlier she would leave the controversial issue to the next Congress, which takes office on June 30.

The new power bill will deregulate the industry, breaking up and privatizing the debt-ridden Napocor. Napocor lost P11.9 billion last year and owes $6.5 billion.

New oil industry players to maintain pump prices

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE NEW Petroleum Players Association yesterday said they have no immediate plans of raising their pump prices even after Caltex Corp., one of the Big Three in the oil industry, adjusted its prices by an average of five centavos per liter.

Fernando L. Martinez, NPPA president, said there was no need for a new price hike citing business confidence in the Macapagal administration and the recovery of the peso against the dollar.

"We have met a certain level of price stability. We are not following Caltex's lead," Martinez said.

He said the new oil firms decided they could absorb the 3-percent tariff considering their cost savings arising from the peso's strengthening from 51 against the dollar to an average of 48.20.

The 3-percent tariff on petroleum products was temporarily lifted during former President Estrada's administration to prevent further increases in the local prices of petroleum prices amid the rising cost of crude. The tariff was reimposed on Feb. 10 by the Macapagal administration.

Martinez, however, said he was not sure whether prices will remain on current levels next month. He said they were awaiting developments in the Middle East over concerns on the United States bombing of certain areas in Iraq.

The new oil companies earlier filed with the Department of Justice complaints of "predatory pricing" against major players Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Caltex.

They said the Big Three were selling liquefied petroleum gas below the new players' selling price to ease them out of the market.

Martinez said they were "not hot" on the issue anymore. The latest increase in LPG prices, although not enough to cover losses, has leveled prices.

"The P1.50 per kilogram increase is not enough to stop the (oil companies') hemorrhage, it should be P2.50," he said.

Oil firm raising capital to ₱500M

EASTERN Petroleum Corp. is planning to increase its authorized capital from P45 million to P500 million within the year.

Fernando Martinez, Eastern Petroleum chair and chief executive officer, said the company was negotiating with J&M Properties to convert assets into Eastern Petroleum shares.

Eastern Petroleum, one of the new players in the oil industry, said J&M's one-hectare depot in Pasig City, alone, could easily contribute P200 million into the company's capitalization.

Martinez said the company would raise the balance through domestic loans.

He also said Eastern Petroleum was planning to put up 80 additional gas stations all over the country by end-2002. Currently, the oil firm has only 20 stations all in Luzon.

He said the company intended to put up 25 new stations each in Visayas and Mindanao, mainly in these areas' key cities. A station costs about P3 million to put up.

"Our goal is to have 500 gas stations by 2005," Martinez said.

He said Eastern Petroleum has also been working toward international trade in the Asia-Pacific. Negotiations with Singapore-based and Dubai-based suppliers are under way for trading of about four million barrels of crude and processed petroleum this year.

Martinez said they sold P400 million worth of finished products in 2000. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

ASB group seeks 60-day debt relief

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE ASB group of companies has asked the Securities and Exchange Commission to spare it from its creditors for another 60 days from Feb. 28.

The cash-strapped group led by property developer Luke Roxas has offered its creditor-banks assets to pay over P5 billion in debts. It is also seeking the creation of an "asset pool" from excess collateral to pay some P3.9 billion it owes over 700 unsecured creditors.

The SEC earlier allowed ASB to stop paying its debts until Feb. 28 to incorporate in its proposed rehabilitation plan the entry of Hong Kong's Chevalier group, a potential white knight.

SEC-appointed interim receiver Fortunato Cruz has asked the SEC to approve ASB's rehabilitation plan.

But most of the company's creditor-banks, including Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Equitable PCI Bank, United Coconut Planters Bank, Allied Banking Corp. and China Banking Corp., have opposed this plan.

UCPB, in particular, wants ASB liquidated so that its assets can be sold to pay its debts. The bank has asked the SEC to dismiss ASB's rehabilitation plan since financial statements used as a basis for it have failed to comply with generally accepted accounting principles. It believes that the assets ASB is offering, like the still-uncompleted Malayan Tower in Makati, are priced above their true value.

ASB has admitted that that its financial statements do not conform with generally accepted accounting principles and have been prepared only to secure the SEC's approval.

ASB filed for debt relief and rehabilitation last year after a massive termination of placements with ASB Holdings Inc. by its investors.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Friday, February 23, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	6.9	7.1	6.9	7.1	4,000
Banco Filipino Sav & Mort	105	105	105	105	740
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69.5	70	69.5	70	214,100
China Banking Corp.	680	680	680	680	3,090
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	56.5	56.5	55	55	88,000
Global Business Bank Inc.	65	69	64	68	4,400
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	226	230	224	224	61,650
Prudential Bank	500	500	500	500	1,000
Philippine National Bank	36	40	36	40	570,000
Phil. Savings Bank	30	30	30	30	100
Security Bank Corp.	24	24	24	24	4,400
Union Bank of the Phil.	28	28	28	28	1,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	340,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1150	1150	1150	1150	3,370
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	17,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	960	965	960	965	20,500
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	49	49.5	49	49	8,900
Diversified Fin. Network	10	10	10	10	1,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	2,940,000
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	8,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	715	715	715	715	300
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	2,300,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	20,000
Piltel	0.76	0.76	0.76	0.76	20,000
Philstar.Com Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	30,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	820	830	820	820	106,980
Ivantage Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	196,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.0725	0.075	0.0725	0.0725	139,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	53.5	53.5	53.5	53.5	2,400
Manila Electric Co. B	62.5	62.5	61.5	62	808,400
Petron Corp.	1.94	1.96	1.94	1.96	1,923,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.14	842,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.32	1.4	1.32	1.38	2,964,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	10,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.25	0.25	570,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	20,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.87	0.9	0.87	0.9	39,780,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7	4,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	7,200
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	37	38	37	37.5	221,800
Pancake House Inc.	1.58	1.6	1.58	1.6	31,000
RFM Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	419,000
San Miguel Corp. A	50	50.5	49.5	50.5	83,400
San Miguel Corp. B	59.5	60	59	59.5	257,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	20,000
Ayala Corp.	8	8.1	8	8	2,346,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	11,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.75	12	11.75	12	700
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	1.02	1.04	1.02	1.04	240,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	57,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3	3.05	3	3.05	79,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	2	2	1.94	1.94	20,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	600,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.15	3.2	3.1	3.1	6,899,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.51	0.55	0.51	0.55	2,100,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	6,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.46	1.48	1.46	1.48	641,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	85,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	1,700,000
Guoco Holdings (Phils.)	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	400,000
Ionics Inc.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	9,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	2.75	2.8	2.75	2.75	3,166,000
Keppel Phil. Holdings	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	668,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.98	1.98	1.98	1.98	13,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	1,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.92	0.94	0.91	0.94	6,400,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	200,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	240,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.63	0.66	0.63	0.66	3,590,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.74	0.75	0.74	0.74	3,500,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.39	0.39	640,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,500,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Metro Alliance Holdings-B	1	1.02	1	1.02	80,000
Macondray Plastics Inc.	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	2,000
Music Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	133,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.81	360,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,450,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber A	5	5	5	5	5,000
Philtread Tire & Rubber B	5	5	5	5	6,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	12.75	13.5	12.75	13.25	978,100
Steniel Manufacturing	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.63	0.64	0.63	0.64	400,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.71	0.66	0.69	6,030,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.69	0.7	0.69	0.69	500,000
Manila Jockey Club	17.5	17.5	17	17	8,400
Philippine Racing Club	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	49	49.5	49	49.5	205,100
Ayala Corp. Pref.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	130,000
DMCI Holdings, Inc.- Pref.	505	505	500	500	300
Equitable PCI Bank-War	4.15	4.2	4	4	743,000
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	0.0034	92,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	6,943,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	2,200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	10,320,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	3,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.85	2.95	2.85	2.9	10,171,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	10,000
SM Development Corp.	0.96	0.99	0.96	0.96	460,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.1	7.3	7.1	7.2	12,922,000
Universal Rightfield Prop.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	300,000
Urbancorp Realty Dev. Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	28,000,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc B	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	1,000,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	61,000,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	3.1	3.2	3	3.1	67,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.22	0.23	0.22	0.23	400,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	106,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0065	0.007	0.0065	0.0065	635,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	396,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.018	0.018	0.018	0.018	5,600,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	10,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	257,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	200,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	710,000
Vulcan Ind'l.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	100,000

DISCLOSURES

EQUITABLE PCI Bank denied the reported short list of four investors keen on acquiring a stake in the bank. It said it has not yet finalized any short list of qualified bidders. The board, it said, merely created a committee to evaluate proposals from the prospective investors.

* * *

PHILIPPINE National Bank said it was not aware of any agreement between the government and its director Lucio Tan regarding the reported planned joint sale of their holdings.

* * *

THE BOARD of **Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.** moved the date of its annual stockholders' meeting from May 10, as indicated in its by laws, to April 20.

* * *

GUOCO Holdings (Philippines) Inc. and its foreign partner in **Zeus Holdings Inc.**, according to the Guoco board, are still in the process of considering various corporate plans for Zeus, including the option to sell.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 19, 2:30 p.m., at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila.

* * *

INTERPHIL Laboratories Inc. will hold its annual stockholders meeting on June 28, 3 p.m. The record date is May 10.

* * *

MANULIFE Financial Corp. will hold its annual meeting of shareholders on May 1. The record date is March 16.

* * *

MUSIC Telecom, a subsidiary of **Music Corp.**, announced that it has expanded its call logging product offerings with the beta release of its T1/E1 passive tap monitoring card.

* * *

METROPOLITAN Bank and Trust Co. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 25. The record date is March 14. ***Compiled by Armin P. Adina, PDI Research***

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Notice is given that the estate of late CARMEN A. RIZADA was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc #342 Page#58 Book III Series of 2001 of Notary Public Atty. Lino B. Soriano of Quezon City.
(PDI- 2/17, 24 & 3/3, 2001)

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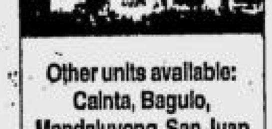

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PROVINCIAL

CAVITE LIGHT INDUSTRIAL PARK Along Maguyam Rd, Carmona Cavite Pre-Selling Tel 635-8108 / 636-0111

•Las Haciendas de Luisita• 488m² P2,600/m² 0459851884

Rush Tagaytay LOTS 643-6211

OTHER AREAS

TOWN&COUNTRY S.VILLE 209m² P800T Vic 8903461 L27

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

•88 Corp. Ctr BNew 178m² Sale or Rent 412-1825

nr GREENBELT 3br 250m² 25M 4121825 09177914366

nr GREENBELT b new 1-3br 4121825/ 09177914366

•Rush! Le Domain 2BR 6M •90m² 4121825/ 150341394

MANILA

MASANGKAY 4BR 128m² P2.8 7813658 09197048087

PARANAQUE

Better Living 2BR/ TB 850T neg Carport 09176011115

PASIG

11M Beautiful HSE South Bay Paranaque 141-259275

6.5M Townhse Kawilihan Vill Pasig 141-259275

QUEZON CITY

Cubao CondoP1.3M EZterm 9126976/9132224/4381480

Nova P5T/mo.10yrs 9390299

OTHER AREAS

Sunrise Hill Tagaytay Royale Studio Facing pool 1.8M 9215479 / 4337194

MEMORIAL LOT

1Lot LMP Mkhs 645-5119

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

2BR 1TB 8.5T Newly Built 7214304/7216093CubaoQC

KALOOCAN

2TB Briones 7Ave., 8869107 8/T

MAKATI

2BR Sorn grg 15T 8443622

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MAKATI

Mkt. Apt. 4 rent T8954370

QUEZON CITY

2BR 2TB 8T Proj 6 9275771

2BR Kanlaon SMH 7T 7418093

SAN JUAN

111 Hoover San Juan 2BR 1TB 1Park P12T T-7244645

HOUSE

ALABANG

AyalaBang 4BRDN 5TB Gdn Lanai Spol 150T 8524951

PARANAQUE

BFPh3 16T2BR2TB7214304

PASIG

VV Split Level Furnished Call 727-5056

QUEZON CITY

1BR nr Ktpnan 8T 6819727

8BR NR UNIMART 30T 2415814

PROVINCIAL

STA ROSA VILL. P5T 7246251

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

1BR Furn South Str Plz
844-7524

BSA Twr/Suites
1br FF tel/pkg 646-8037/95

STUDIO 14K Neg. 637-7583

MANILA

PYF BUILDING
L. GUINTO CR. APACIBLE
(nr. UP PGH)
Ofc/Res Units
20-140 sqm
FULL SERVICE DORM
(Male/Female) A/C Rooms
Bed & Linens; blt-in
Closet w/study table
T&B w/H&C water
Common area w/cable TV
Kitchen & Dining area
Laundrymat avlble
302-5395/302-5199

PARANAQUE

2BDRM 2T&B BF HOMES PQUE TEL. 8071245 12T/M

PASIG

Ortigas Ctr Bnew 2BR T-4337159 / 0919-2079905

QUEZON CITY

P4800/mo Cubao
P6500/moMalate
Call 911-3361 ; 924-1402

P5,500/mo.CUBAO
P6,500/mo.Malate
Call 911-3361 / 522-6648

FOR LEASE

BNEW COMML/RES/OFF 3F NR TERMINAL3 PASAY 8315945

Commercial Space 4 Rent Bangkal Mktl. 8447524

Comm'l/Office/Residential TEL. 8071245 BF Paranaque

ROOM & BOARD

Cubao Strong H2O; P650 9124108

Mktl Apartel 500-700/day 3T-4.2T/wk ful/fur 8995388

WANTED TO BUY

DEFECT TV/COMPO 7325865

LOAN & MORTGAGE

2 % Wut taking Car 3077623/24

FINANCING-EASY FAST VERY PRIVATE CONVENIENT H/L BUSINESS PERSONAL Edwin/ Gigie 8903461 Loc 25/27

Salcedo Place Fully Furn. 831-0651; 831-2485

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

P1800/mo Stalls
Malate T-400-6420/23
Sn Pedro Lag. 8086006/07

2 Storey Bldg
For Emergency & Lying Clinic
See or Call Danny Cruz
Tel. 248-2089
Brgy. San Roque
Cainta Rizal

75sqm Ofc Space Bel-Air Mkt 8900151/09177905788

8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Drive Ort. Center Pasig City 637-8101 / 637-8080

BUSY ST 9 DE FEB MAND 551-5491/CL-09189124546

C'nta60m²Clnic/Shp/Off6552773

Comml Resdl 30m² & up 9T up Good for Grocer Drugs Foods Dental Optical Bank Branch 2038 Mabuhay St. Sta. Ana 563-9649/561-5411

OFFICE CONDO
1st Floor 119 Rada St.,Legaspi Vill.GFA: 46m² LEASE @ 16,100.00/mo. or SALE @ P3.18 Million •Tel:818-2781,751-5472•

Office Space Herrera 57sqm Call 727-5056

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

CARS

HONDA

98CIVICLXI AT379T8424164

Nice & Well Kept '96 Civic VTi MT Upgraded SiR Orange Passion New Tires & Mags Honda Fog & Cornering Lights. Must See! 5602431; 09175320502 Richard/Lito & 6336295 Myra

KIA

97Besta2.2 200T 3739938

MERCEDES

'83 230E 69Tkm Lvng 4 US Rush 225T Offer 934-3875

'92MB 190E 2.3L AllOrig 30Tkm M/T LSeat P675T White 8172708

MITSUBISHI

Supersaloon VR4 All Power Good as New Tel 833-0796

Galant 99 VR6 A/T Silver 0917-8192224 • 931-8609

TOYOTA

95FX Gas 250T 40Km 7256385

'98 Corolla XE 1st Owner Casa Mntnd 350K 824-8834

RUSH Sale! 99 Model 1.8 EFI REVO. Matic 560T Neg. 912-3323 / 911-5473

OTHER CAR BRANDS

89 Feroza wellmaintained 190K Neg Office 912-2846

BUSES/TRUCKS

Used Dump Trucks Tel. 2916641 / 2916565

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

CARS FOR RENT

Cheap Vans 'n MB 9344988

L3•Cars• 9273453 4538295

Starex, L300, Coaster Bus Cars 637-7396 • 631-3496

CARS•VANS•8978113•8955888 BUS•CSTER•BRIDAL•8969955

H-100 Van/Honda 920-7360

FX Cheap 373-0584 Cathy

HIACE L300 URVAN 8257135

IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 T 4161105 / 7411356

L300 Van 5109530/8533103

L300 VV (Roger) 576-8917

L3FB / Hiace Cars 641-9901

SELFDRIVE-New Cars & Vans, Daily or Long Term ABC-5300022/3030700

Toyco Trans Cars Vans W/ or w/o driver 800-0695

•Car;Vans4536288;0290280

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 8990215

●BuyCars Spot Cash! 6436280

We Buy Cars "Spot Cash" Top Price Try Us 740-5692

CAR LOAN

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

1.5% Fast Car Loan 3670169

2% w/o taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

ELECTRONIC & INDUSTRIAL EQUIP

Survey Eng Eqpt 426-0013

HOME APPLIANCE

Sony VCD (MCE F88K) Bnew 7500 w/ Mic/CD 5611036

PETS

ALLCOURSES FULLY GRTD Puppy Obd *Off-Leashing Agility/Tracking/Protection
UNITED K9 COL
Main Kennel 287-07-17 Bulacan : 0919-817-1419 WR TOP TRAINERS TRAIN

Dachshund Pups 435-4575

Golden Ret. PUPS 5232594

LABRADOR PUPPIES SHOW quality w/papers CALL 09179770939 Boy Blue

PUGS wrinkled 3725231

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Billiard P25T & P30T New Accept C.Card • 781-9453

BILLIARD TABLE
BBRUNSWICK STYLE P 31,000
KANGAROO STYLE
AUTO BALL RETURN
CASH OR INSTALLEMT
FIREBALL-365-4064/418-4345

B.Table B'new/Accessories •(02)8014494/8020566•

STRIKEMASTER
Bowling & Billiards
Sales & Rentals T-9341569

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH CALL 09178142309/7269687

Elem/H.S./College Plan 7137284 09177939632

ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
Tel# 804-0484 • 834-2886

MISCELLANEOUS

MONSTER GARAGE SALE SAT. Pasig 6713276 Moving Furn, Beds, Electricals, TV, 486 Computer, Clothing, Sheets, Plants, Much More

FIGHTING COCK

JUN PIZARRO FOWL
SEED FOWL SPECIALIST
Registered Game Fowl Breeder
DIRECT IMPORTER
33 Classes of Broodstocks
BROOD HENS ... P5,000
BROOD COCKS ...P15,000
TRIO ... P24,000
SHIPPING NATIONWIDE
Tel.Nos 4395906/ 3715819

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

CARGO OFFICER
TICKETING OFFICER
ACCOUNTANT
GENERATOR TECHNICIAN
WEAPON REPAIR MAN
CALL TEL. 3039475

Gen. Mgr. Sec Agency 6313498

FEMALE

Doctor & Skin Therapist 4 Skin Clinic w/exp. Call Dr.A. Umali 7235266; 7219227

Mwife Stay-in F 6566044

PROMO Girls 724-2737

MALE/FEMALE

BRA/Pattern Sewer 6024061

CARE GIVER T-6260722

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY

is inviting applicants for the position of

LIBRARY DIRECTOR

for the Rizal Library of the Loyola Schools to start in May of 2001.

The ideal candidate is a professional (licensed) librarian with at least a Master's Degree and a proven track record in developing and implementing research and academic library policies and programs. With at least ten years of professional practice, s/he must have exemplary leadership and mentoring skills, effective interpersonal and communication skills, and good moral character.

The successful candidate is expected to supervise 50 full-time staff.

Interested candidates may apply for the position by sending the following: (a) an application cover letter, (b) updated *curriculum vitaé,* and (c) names, addresses, and contact numbers of at least three professional references to:

Director, Personnel
Ateneo de Manila University
Loyola Heights, Quezon City 1108
ATTENTION: The Rizal Library Director Search Committee

Requirements may also be sent by e-mail to **mors@admu.edu.ph** or faxed to 426-1245.

Deadline for applications: 10 March 2001
for more information, please call 426-6001 local 4122

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

SALES AGENTS

Must have knowledge/experience in selling consumer kitchenwares, housewares, electronics and garments. Must have background in dealing with customers

Apply at:
FUN REPUBLIC CORPORATION
4th Flr. CENTRO Bldg., 180 Salcedo St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City
Telephone No.: 8937637
Fax No.: 8430553

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE/FEMALE

UNIPHIL-INTERNATIONAL Nurses (CGFNS holders / applicants) For posting in the U.S.A. for more information call Felicidad at tel. no. (78)326-7608 or write at No. 10 Bacarra St., Brgy. Osmena, Solano, Nueva Viscaya 3709

BSC GRADUATES
Integrated Poultry Supply
994 NCBA Bldg Aurora Blvd
Cubao QC 12:00 Noon Daily

Elec'l./ Mech. / Electronic /Civil Eng'r/Sales Eng'r /Acctant/Bookeeper/Sec./ Nurse/Law Grad.#1143 Pasong Tamo cor. Kamagong, Makati, M.M.

Good ENCODER-Secretary Math TUTOR for HS Freelance PHOTOGRAPHERS JANITOR/MESSENGER Fax resume at 522-5189

★ IMMIGRATE ★
LIVE and WORK in CANADA
8175511/8944950

PART TIMERS GRADUATES OR UNDERGRADS T287-5996

SERVICE CREW / DRIVER 723-8683 • 744-0646

Washington Tutorial Ctr. English Tutor 825-8804

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Canadians Immigrant & Japan, Korean, & other International tourist visa assistance T9342070/71/72

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

TELEMARKETING 2477469

CUSTOMER CARE 6429806

•EARN FR HOME 8531008•

JEWELRY NO CAPITAL CONSIGN Term Must be Employed 2778186

Rest & Equip 4 Sale Boracay Food Court PQUE Call 825-2986

Restaurant space along Katipunan Rd. with complete pre-installed kitchen equipment and furniture, 30 covers. E-mail: opalanca@info.com.ph or call 7115660 Flor

RTW Factory Price 7200881

RTW WHOLESALE 3714226

Telemarketing 651-0016

TRAVEL OPPOR 893-7903

TShirt Fac.Price 4363147

Computer Printer Technician

- He/She responsible for sales and marketing of the products
- Able to establish a strong and productive relationship with customers
- Strong sales experience in the IT Industry
- College with technical background
- Has pleasing personality, flexible and high level of integrity

E-mail your resumé to:
ongkimk@cyberway.com.sg
maxlink@pacific.net.ph
or fax to: 843-3428 on or before February 28, 2001

NOTICE

YEH SHENG FU
aka Joseph Yeh

Warrant for the arrest of Yeh Sheng Fu aka Joseph Yeh, President of

SHENG-DA ENT.
(KENYI Fertilizer)

for

"Falsification"

issued by MTC Br 2, San Fernando, La Union in Criminal case # [illegible] remains not served for failure to locate him. Last known address: Ruella Bldg., Sevilla, San Fernando City, La Union. Reward awaits info. leading to his arrest.

CONTACT: CIS SPO1 REYES (072) 8882472

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

LOST: Alien Cert. of Reg. Nos. E062764; E062765; E062763 and Immigrant Cert. of Res. Nos. 249024; 259435; 259434 issued to EERO BOREN; PIA LIZA BOREN on Dec. 06, 1985. If found, return to Alien Reg. Division of Bureau of Immigration
(PDI-Feb. 24 & 25, 2001)

Notice is hereby given of the Loss of the Sime Darby Pilipinas, Inc. Stock Certificates Nos: 30005, 27364, 25190, 22681, 20589, 17172, 15902, 14248, 12826, 10828, 9319, 8003, 6874, 5641, 5083, 4537, 4005, 3324, under the name of Harry G. Fullen and/or Rosa R. Fullen. If no contest after one (1) year new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Feb. 24, Mar. 3 & 10, 2001)

This is to notify the Public that Official Receipt with Serial No. 4903 to 4950 will not be honored by Tower Group Asia.
(PDI- Feb. 24 & 26, 2001)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late **IRMINA BOLANOS TRINIDAD** was extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. 247, Page 51, Book XVI, Series of 2001 before Notary Public Manuel Sabado of Makati
(PDI-Feb.10, 17 & 24,2001)

Notice is given that the estate of the late **MANUEL R. BUENAVENTURA** has been extra-judicially settled by his heirs on Feb. 12, 2001 under Doc. #308, Page #62, Book #1, Series of 2001 before Atty. Ramon U. Ampil,Q.C.
(PDI-Feb. 17, 24 & Mar. 3, 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **CONCORDIA P. PORTACIO** has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc. No. 120; Page. 24; Book. No. 1 Series of 2000 Before Notary Public Arnulfo Q. Canivel at Pasay City (PDI-Feb. 10, 17, 24. 2001)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late **JOSE S. PLANES JR.** has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs as per Doc. No. 126; Page. 26; Book No. 1 Series of 2000 Before Notary Public Arnulfo Q. Canivel at Pasay City (PDI-Feb. 10, 17, 24, 2001)

Notice is hereby given that a deed of extrajudicial settlement of estate of deceased person were executed by the heirs of the late **ROMEO CARREON** over Savings Account Nos. 0271-0648-29 with Land Bank of the Philippines, Baclaran Branch and entered in the notarial register of Atty. Ledibrido S. Patalinghug as Doc. No. 251;Page No. 52; Book No. 70; Series of 2000 PDI-Feb.17,24 & Mar. 3, 2001)

Notice is hereby given of the Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement of the estate of the late **ELPIDIO MANANSALA BAUTISTA** executed by his Heirs and transferring of the said property in favor of **PACIFICO M. BAUTISTA**, and sworn to before Notary Public Atty. Benjamin S. Mallari of Masantol, Pampanga and docketed under Doc. No. 227; Page 46; Book No. VII; Series of 2000
(PDI-Feb. 24; Mar. 3 & 10, 2001)

JPN Japan Philippine Nameplate Inc.

UL CERTIFIED

IMMEDIATE HIRING
ECE (MALE / FEMALE)
(College Graduate)

Qualifications:

- Computer Literate
- With or without License
- Work experience not required
- Below 25 years old
- Good moral character and hardworking
- Willing to undergo training

Send your Resume / Application direct to JPN:
Address: Lot 9 Blk. 13 Cavite Economic Zone
Rosario, Cavite
Tel.# : (046) 437-1714 / 17
Fax# : (046) 437-1713
E-mail : jpn@okane.skyinet.net
Contact person : Ms. Marie / Tina

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
4/F Presidential Management Staff Building, Arlegui St.,
San Miguel, Manila
Telephone Nos. +632 7342102; +632 7335488 +632 7335448
Telefax Nos. +632 7342217; +632 7342218

ANNOUNCEMENT/INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND PREQUALIFY

CONSULTING SERVICES FOR SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER PROGRAM FOR THE DATABASE ON INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION FROM POINT SOURCES (DIPPS), A COMPONENT OF THE DANIDA-ASSISTANCE TO THE PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION PROGRAM

The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) hereby announces and invites interested firms to submit their expression of interest and to prequalify to the subject consulting services which will be jointly implemented in the PRRC-PMO, EMB, LLDA and DENR-CO and DENR-NCR.

The scope of work of the required consulting services will include the review and refinement of database system design, development of MS Access application programs for converting existing databases to DIPPS, data entry and encoding and common user interface for permit processing and training of encoders, users and systems administrators and programmers, among others. A more detailed scope of work will be defined in the project's Term of Reference. The consultant must have extensive hands-on experience in database management systems (DBMS) programming using Microsoft Access and Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), database systems design and development and conducting trainings on database applications programming. Interested firms may secure prequalification forms at the following address:

The Chairperson
Prequalification, Evaluation and Award Committee
Project Management Office, Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
4th Floor, Presidential Management Staff Building
Arlegui Street, San Miguel, Malacañang, Manila

PRRC will shortlist the consulting firms on the basis of expressions of interest and prequalification statements submitted not later than 12 March 2001.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Chairperson, PBAC

(PDI--Feb.24, 2001)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

INVITATION TO AUCTION

The National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it shall be conducting a sealed auction on **02 March 2001** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, 101 Matimyas Building, E.Rodriguez, Sr., Avenue, Quezon City for the allocation of quotas to NFA licensed grains importers and wholesalers/retailers covering the initial importation of 7,500 MT of Premium, Fancy and Glutinous rice.

Interested auctioner/s should be able to comply with the following which shall be submitted to DMO-FOD, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E.Rodriguez, Sr., Avenue, Quezon City not later than **28 February 2001**.

a. A duly notarized authorization from the owner, chairman, partner or president of the sole proprietorship, partnership, company, corporation or cooperative certifying that:

   a.1 He/She is presently connected with the foregoing entity either as owner, official, employee or present stockholder/shareholder;

   a.2 He/She is authorized to represent the entity to the pre-auction, auction proper and all activities pertinent therein.

b. Updated/valid NFA license as importer and wholesaler/retailer. It is understood that the winning auctioner/s shall comply with other NFA rules and regulations on NFA licensing as deemed appropriate.

The 7,500 MT shall be auctioned at a indicative equalization fee bid of PHP 3,240.00 per MT. Maximum quantity to be offered per importer is 1,000 MT.

All interested auctioners shall be subjected to payment/posting of bid bond equivalent to 10% of total bid price in the form of cash cashier's check or Manager's check.

The pre-auction conference will be held on **28 February 2001** at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom.

Interested auctioners may secure the Guidelines in the Importation of Premium, Fancy and Glutinous Rice by the Private Sector starting **22 February 2001** (8:00 AM to 5:00 PM) from DMO-FOD, 5th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E.Rodriguez, Sr., Avenue, Quezon City.

Winning auctioners shall be issued a Permit to Import Rice after payment of the required Equalization Fee. It is understood that the tariff/duty of 50% shall be paid by the importer.

Auction documents will be available on **28 February 2001** after the pre-auction conference upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PHP 2,000.00.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all, to waive any informality thereof and to accept only such bid/s as are advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN**
Administrator

(PDI – Feb. 22, 23 & 24, 2001)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: sssemail@info.com.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

Visit the SSS website for Bid Invitations

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID

SSS EMPLOYEES RICE REQUIREMENT FOR THE 2ND QUARTER OF CY2001 AND VARIOUS COMPUTERS & PERIPHERALS

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM is inviting bidders for the following:

1) Supply and door-to-door delivery of approximately 7,700 sacks of Freshly Milled Premium Grade Commercial Rice for SSS employees for the 2nd quarter of the Year 2001 with the following specifications:
   - Degree of milling : Well Milled Rice (WMR)
   - Moisture Content : 14% (maximum)
   - Grade Specifications : Headrice - 90% to 95% (min.)
     Broken - 10% tc 5% (max.)
   - Free from infestation
   - Packaging : 50 kilos in light yellow woven polyprophylene sack
   - Labelling : With front & back markings
   - Delivery terms : Thirty (30) calendar days upon receipt of the Purchase Order (P.O.)

2) Various Computers and Peripherals

List of pre-qualification requirements for items 1 & 2 must be obtained from the PBAC Secretariat, 6th Floor, SSS Main Building, East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City with telephone numbers **922-2991** and **920-6401** local **2379/2380**. For item no. 2, pre-qualified bidders based on the pre-qualification documents must get a copy of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a non-refundable fee of P500.00 representing the cost of the RFP. Below is the deadline of submission of pre-qualification documents, at the same address.

Item No.	Deadline
1	March 08, 2001
2	March 09, 2001

The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any formality or technicality, and to award to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the System. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of their respective bids, nor does the System guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **HORACIO T. TEMPLO**
Executive Vice-President
& Chairman, Pre-qualification,
Bidding & Award Committee

(PDI - Feb 24 2001)

INQUIRER TRiViA

By BONG BARRAMEDA

Garland of prayers

As the queen of all flowers, the white rose symbolized Mary as the Queen of All Saints and the Mystical Rose or the Rose of Heaven. The rose's five petals had an extra significance -- they were regarded both as the five letters of her Latin name Maria, and the Five Joyful Mysteries (the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation in the Temple, and the finding of the Christ Child in the Temple). From the Mystical Rose also derives the word rosary (from the Latin *rosarium*, 'a garland of roses'), which in the Roman Catholic Church is both a devotion of repeated prayers commemorating the joys, sorrows, and glories relating to the life of Christ and Mary, and association, the string of beads (fifteen 'decades' of ten small beads and one larger bead) used to assist memory in recitation of the prayers. Thus the rosary could properly be called 'a garland of prayers.'

for the Record. The rose is also the emblem of silence and secrecy. In Greco-Roman mythology, the god of silence, Harpocrates, once stumbled upon Venus' son Cupid gave him a white rose. Thus in ancient times, a rose was hung, of carved in wood or sculpted in plaster on the ceilings of banquet halls and coucil chambers, and from the 16th century over confessionals, to signify that anything said *sub rosa*, or 'under the rose,' was considered confidential.

Past Forward. This day in 1964: As he'd promised, Cassius Clay -- later Muhammad Ali -- floated like a butterfly and stung like a bee -- and hammered Sonny Liston to submission in one of boxing's biggest-ever surprises. After six rounds, an injured and humbled Liston, the 7-1 favorite, refused to come out of his corner, thus yielding the world heavyweight crown to the brash 22-year-old Clay.

WORD WATCH

Sapak : Tagalog [illegible] en off" -- based on the loud sound [illegible]

PDI – February 24, 2001

For Sale or Lease

Condominium

3 storey,3 bedroom Duplex/
  Triplex Condominium units Corinthian Place
  # 36 Valencia Street, Quezon City
3 bedroom, single detached condominium
  Corinthian Villas Mayor Juan Posadas Avenue,
  Sucat, Muntinlupa City
3 Bedrooms Condominium Makati Cinema
  Square Tower Pasong Tamo St. Makati City
Studio Type Condominium BSA Tower
  Legaspi St. Legaspi Village, Makati City
Apartment 7-B , Semi furnish Tuscan Condo
  7th Floor Tuscan Bldg, Herrera St,
  Legazpi Village , Makati City
Apartment 3-D , Studio type Sunvar Condo
  3rd Floor Sunvar Condominium Bldg.
  Luna St. cor. Villaruel St., Pasay City
Unit-2110 Lower Penthouse (A=36.49 sqm)
  Makati Medical Plaza Condominium
3 bedroom condo unit (A=77 sqm.)
Kingswood Tower V. Cruz cor.
Metropolitan, Makati City

House/Lot

Brand New 2 storey Residential
  House & Lot w/ Basement
  Lot 534 sqm., Floor Area 671m2
Unit 3-C #778 Harvard St. Wack-Wack
  Madaluyong City
Block 6, Lot 7 Row House
  Lot 36 sqm., Flr. area 22 sq. m.
Blk 7, Lot 20 Row House (End unit)
  Lot 36 sqm., Flr. area 22 sq. m.
  Garden City II Village
  Queensrow West Molino. Bacoor,
  Cavite
2 storey Residential House w/ pool
  Bel-Air Subdivision
  Makati City

Office/Commercial Space

Unit T-6 (a=59 sqm)
  Sunvar Plaza Pasay Road cor. Amorsolo St.
  Makati City
Unit F-14 (a=59.33 sqm)
Unit S-6C (a=96.49 sqm)
Unit S-7 (a=44.99 sqm)
  Makati Cinema Square
  Pasong Tamo St. Makati City
Unit S- Xb (a=123.65 sqm)
  The Gallery Building Amorsolo St. Makati City
Unit 102/106 (a=197.19 sqm)
Unit 108 (a=139.40 sqm)
Unit 112 (a=56.20 sqm)
Unit 233 (a=17.50 sqm)
  Mile Long Theme Center Herrera St.
  cor. Amorsolo St. Makati City
Commercial Space (a=308.77 sqm)
  4th flr Isetann Cinerama Complex
Office Space (a=912 sqm)
  2231 Molave Building P. Tamo Makati City
Office Space (a=243 sqm)
  Corinthian Plaza, Paseo De Roxas, Makati City
Office Space (a=893 sqm)
  Electra House.Herrera cor. Esteban St.
  Legaspi Village, Makati City
Office /Warehouse (a=1,470 sqm)
  Villa Lourdes Subd Mataas na Lupa, Lipa City
Office/Warehouse (a=8,140 sqm)
  Bayan-Bayanan Ave Concepcion I, Marikina City

Vacant Lot

Block 1, Lot 19 (a=300 sqm)
Block 1, Lot 23 (a=300 sqm)
  Posadas Village, Sucat, Muntinlupa City
Area : 408.20 sqm.
  # 7 Evangelista Street Xavierville Subdivision
  Loyola Heights, Quezon City
Commercial Lot (a=500 sqm)
  Along National Highway Barangay Halang
  Calamba, Laguna
Ideal for Warehouse (a=34,261 sqm)
  IIPI Compound, Mamplasan Biñan ,Laguna
Ideal for Warehouse (a=10,000sqm)
  Bo. Lodlod, Lipa City
Ideal for Residential (a=328 sqm)
  Blk. 14, Lot 3 Canyon Woods Residential
  Resort
  Laurel, Batangas City

Retail Stalls for Lease
First basement Level
Makati Cinema Square Complex
Pasong Tamo, Makati City

FOR INQUIRIES: CALL TEL. # 843-8061 843-5879 844-4895 844-5442 817-8211 816-1384
Fax 816-1691 Email sunvarrealty@pacific.net.ph lrdc@skyinet.net

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Equitable PCI BANK

INVITATION TO BID

The **ACQUIRED ASSETS DIVISION** of Equitable PCIBank is inviting offers to purchase by the way of sealed bids, in cash and on "as-is-where-is" basis, the following real estate properties:

TCT NO./AREA (in sqms.)/DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	PRICE
I. METRO MANILA		
1) 15571-72/610 m2/res./comm'l. w/impvt.	No. 52 San Rafael St., Bo. Jolo, Mandaluyong City	P27,824,150
2) 206056/208 m2/res. w/ impvts.	Corner Alfonso & Fermina Sts., Bgy. Poblacion, Makati City	21,904,000
3) 361667-68/3,870 m2/comm'l./res. w/ impvts.	Along Marcos Highway, Bgy. Mayamot, Antipolo City	24,959,886
4) 407166/540 m2/res. w/ impvts.	No. 17 Sunrise Drive, Beverly Hills Subd., Bgy. Beverly Hills, Antipolo City	2,347,000
5) PT-113705-707/374 m2/res. w/ impvts.	Corner of Red Palm & Green Palm Sts., SPS Subd., Bgy. Malinao, Pasig City	3,400,000
II. PROVINCIAL		
1) T-484400-R-401-R/752 m2/res.	L12 Villa Victoria Subd., Bo. San Juan & Dolores, San Fernando, Pampanga	3,128,800
2) T-232646-48/5,733 m2/res.	Sta. Clara Subdivision, Banago, Bacolod City	18,236,400
3) T-327882-909/8,796 m2/res. vacant lots	Guadalupe Subd., Lanang, Davao City	16,563,200

Complete description/specification of the above properties, rules & regulations on the bidding procedures and the prescribed bid forms are available from the following officers:

All Properties MS. LITA O. VALENCIA/VP/LUCHIE M. CASTILLO/AO/MAR M. RIPA/AO/GISELLE P. ESPIRITU/AO/KAREN U. RESARI/AO/TON-TON P. MALABUYO/AO-Tel. Nos. 817-8909/817-2822/840-7638/840-7644/894-1910/840-7920

Bidding will be held on **March 13, 2001** at 10:00 A.M., 11/F SAM Con. Rm., Equitable PCIBank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City for all items. Bidders' deposit equivalent to 10% of the minimum bid price in the form of cash or Manager's/Cashier's check together with the duly accomplished bid form must be enclosed in a sealed envelope. All sealed bids will be opened on scheduled bidding date as stated above. All winning bids are subject to approval by the Bank's approving authority.

(PDI--Feb. 23 & 24, 2001)

FOR NEW SUBSCRIBERS ONLY

	RETAIL PRICE (VAT INCLUSIVE)				
	Plan 600	Plan 1200	Plan 1800	Plan 3000	Plan 4000
Ericsson A2618s	₱3,990	₱3,490	₱2,990	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3310	5,895	5,395	4,895	1,895	FREE
Siemens C35i (WAP)	5,995	5,495	4,995	1,995	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	6,995	6,495	5,995	2,995	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	11,395	10,895	10,395	7,395	4,395
Nokia 8250	17,695	17,195	16,695	13,695	10,695
Siemens S40	18,495	17,995	17,495	14,495	11,495
Siemens SL45	23,495	22,995	22,495	19,495	17,495
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	39,750	38,750

All plans require an Entrance fee of ₱1,650.

SWITCHING PACKAGE 1: For non-SMART GSM post-paid, PriceBuster and BillCrusher subscribers w/ a 2-month average billing of less than ₱1,000. Requires a 12-month minimum subscription to SMART.

	RETAIL PRICE (VAT INCLUSIVE)				
	Plan 600	Plan 1200	Plan 1800	Plan 3000	Plan 4000
Ericsson A2618s	₱3,495	₱2,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens C35i (WAP)	4,995	2,995	1,995	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3310	5,395	3,495	1,995	FREE	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	6,145	4,995	2,995	FREE	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	10,295	7,195	4,495	2,995	FREE
Nokia 8250	16,795	13,495	11,495	9,495	6,495
Siemens S40	17,595	14,495	12,495	10,495	7,495
Siemens SL45	23,595	20,995	17,995	11,995	10,995
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	35,750	31,750

Entrance fee is waived for all plans.

SWITCHING PACKAGE 2: For non-SMART GSM post-paid, PriceBuster and BillCrusher subscribers w/ a 2-month average billing of more than ₱1,000 but less than ₱2,500. Requires a 12-month minimum subscription to SMART.

	RETAIL PRICE (VAT INCLUSIVE)				
	Plan 600	Plan 1200	Plan 1800	Plan 3000	Plan 4000
Ericsson A2618s	₱2,995	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens C35i (WAP)	4,495	1,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3310	4,895	2,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	5,645	3,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	9,795	6,195	3,495	FREE	FREE
Nokia 8250	16,295	12,995	10,995	8,995	5,995
Siemens S40	17,095	13,995	11,995	9,995	6,995
Siemens SL45	23,095	19,995	16,995	10,995	9,995
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	30,750	26,750

Entrance fee is waived for all plans.

SWITCHING PACKAGE 3: For non-SMART GSM post-paid, PriceBuster and BillCrusher subscribers w/ a 2-month average billing of ₱2,500 and up. Requires a 12 or 18-month subscription to SMART.

	RETAIL PRICE (VAT INCLUSIVE)		
	Plan 1800 (18 mos.)	Plan 3000 (12 mos.)	Plan 4000 (12 mos.)
Ericsson A2618s	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3310	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens C35i (WAP)	FREE	FREE	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 8250	4,995	2,595	FREE
Siemens S40	5,500	3,295	FREE
Siemens SL45	12,000	9,495	4,995
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	22,995	18,995

Entrance fee is waived for all plans.

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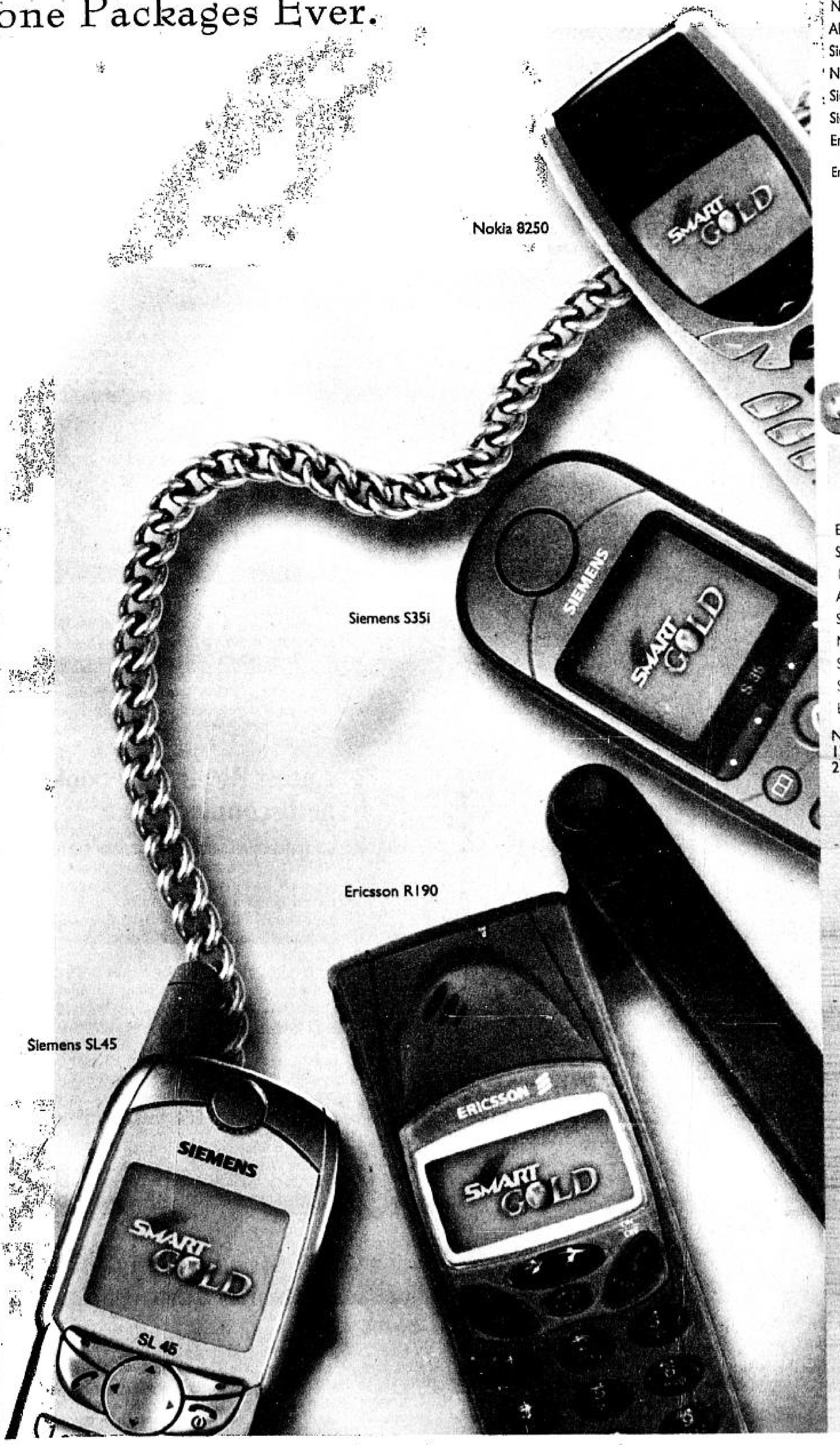

REGULAR CORPORATE PACKAGE
(for less than 10 subscriptions)
Requires a 12-month minimum subscription period to SMART.

RETAIL PRICE (VAT INCLUSIVE)

	Plan 600	Plan 1200	Plan 1800	Plan 3000	Plan 4000
Ericsson A2618s	P3,990	P3,490	P2,990	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3310	5,895	5,395	4,895	1,895	FREE
Siemens C35i (WAP)	5,995	5,495	4,995	1,995	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	6,995	6,495	5,995	2,995	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	11,395	10,895	10,395	7,395	4,395
Nokia 8250	17,695	17,195	16,695	13,695	10,695
Siemens S40	18,495	17,995	17,495	14,495	11,495
Siemens SL45	23,495	22,995	22,495	19,495	17,495
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	39,750	38,750

Entrance fee is waived for all plans.

CORPORATE PACKAGE OPTION 1:
Requires a 12-month minimum subscription period to SMART.

RETAIL PRICE (VAT INCLUSIVE)

	Plan 600	Plan 1200	Plan 1800	Plan 3000	Plan 4000
Ericsson A2618s	P2,995	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens C35i (WAP)	4,495	1,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3310	4,895	2,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	5,645	3,995	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	9,795	6,165	3,495	FREE	FREE
Nokia 8250	16,295	12,995	10,995	8,995	5,995
Siemens S40	17,095	13,995	11,995	9,995	6,995
Siemens SL45	23,095	19,995	16,995	10,995	9,995
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	30,750	26,750

Entrance fee is waived for all plans.

CORPORATE PACKAGE OPTION 2:
Requires an 18-month minimum subscription period to SMART.

RETAIL PRICE (VAT INCLUSIVE)

	Plan 300	Plan 600	Plan 1200	Plan 1800	Plan 3000	Plan 4000
Ericsson A2618s	P2,495	1,495	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens C35i (WAP)	3,995	2,995	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 3310	4,495	3,495	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Alcatel One Touch 302	4,995	4,095	FREE	FREE	FREE	FREE
Siemens S35i (WAP)	9,295	8,295	3,095	FREE	FREE	FREE
Nokia 8250	15,795	14,795	10,995	8,995	FREE	FREE
Siemens S40	16,595	15,595	10,295	5,995	FREE	FREE
Siemens SL45	22,595	21,595	16,295	11,995	5,495	FREE
Ericsson R190 (ACeS)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	22,995	18,995

Note: For Plan 300 subscribers only, corporate accounts have the option of either:
1) An 18-month subscription with entrance fee of P1,650.
2) A 24-month lockout period with the entrance fee waived.
For all other plans, Entrance fee is waived.

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Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
GENCO 1

INVITATION TO BID

GENCO 1 01-002 (PB)

The Generation Company 1 (GENCO 1), with office at NPC Old Building, 161 Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila, invites interested NPC accredited suppliers to bid on the items listed below. The opening will be conducted on March 14 & 16, 2001 at 10:00 AM, 1st floor, Bidding Room. Price quotation in Philippine Peso is preferred.

DATE OF BIDDING ---- MARCH 14, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
9903-073	14 pcs., Ball Bearing, No. 6228 CM & 6318, Spare for Pulverizer, Forced Draft Fan, Primary Air Fan and Fire Pump Motors
9907-058	4 sets, Galvanized Wire Rope, 7 x 7 strand core abrasion resistance and good flexibility quality, size 6.5 mm x 29.15 m HWDG, PN 7430.01 and Wire Rope Guide Assembly, PN 31135.01, S/P for 3.2 Tons Abus Overhead Crane Model No. GM 832H6-191.41.064E
0004-019-TES	1 lot, Pressure Test Gauge Accessories, Thermocouple Assemblies, Thermocouple Extension Wire with Connectors, Thermocouple Wire and Slack Tube Manometer
0006-036	25 boxes Fastener, for heavy duty conveyor belt std. stainless steel + carbon steel and 15 pcs. Flexible Armoured Stainless Steel Connecting Pin, Manufactured by Goro
0006-093-TES	1 job, Supply of supervision, labor, services, parts/materials for the repair of various Electronics Cards, UD61 Card, Control Bailey 2112681E for Micro Z Control System, FAB 121 Card, Central P for Microrec Control System, CNLR20/S Electronic Cards, Lorame for TS1 and VMDS Vibroscan Power Supply, Model PM-AC 220, C1S Amrein for TS1
0007-021-TES	400 MT, Supply, storage and delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite, technical grade, for approx. eight-month open contract tentatively from April 1 to September 30, 2001
0007-040-TES	1 lot, Data Acquisition System (DAS) Electronic Cards and Accessories, Manufactured by Mitsubishi Corp., consisting of 24 items
0007-051	800 kgs., Welding Electrodes, AWS E8016-B2, sizes 2.4 mm dia. x 300 mm & 3.2 mm dia. x 350 mm and AWS E9018-B3, sizes 2.4 mm dia. x 300 mm & 3.2 mm dia. x 350 mm
0009-003-TES	3 pcs., Analog Memory, Computing Unit, Model MXS-21AA-1*A/Z, 4 ~ 20 mA DC Output 1 & 2, Supply 12-48 VDC & Transformer, Type T-1B1, Capacity 200 VA, 1-phase, 50/60 Hz, S/P for Instrument Transducer Panel and 14 pcs. Accessories, Circuit Breaker, Model NF30-SS, AC 220 V, 1.C, 5 KA, 5, 10 & 30 A, 2 pole, 600 V AC, Ventilation Fan, Model 1095024, 120 V AC and Relay, Model MY2ZN-CR, 100 ~ 110 V AC
0010-037	1 lot, Electrical Wire, stranded, No. 2.5 mm, 150 m/roll, THW, Auto Ballast, for one 175 W, H39 lamp cap. 17.5 MFD, 120 VAC, 17.5 A AD180, Cat. No. 71A3002. Advance Transformer or equivalent, Capacitor, 17.5 MFD, 280 VAV, 60 Hz. Aerovox, P92G2817Y23, protected B5000 AFC, no PCB or equivalent and Mercury Bulb, 175 W, ballasted, mogul base, 110 VAC
0010-040	10 rolls, Electrical Wire, stranded, No. 2.5 mm, 150 m/roll, THW
0011-019	1 lot, Boiler Tubes, Material SA 213 Gr. T-12 or any equivalent of various sizes. Material SA 213 Gr. T-22, size 63.50 mm OD x 12.07 MWT x 8000 mm L & Material SA 209 Gr. T-1, size 45.0 mm OD x 5.1 MWT x 8000 mm L and Rifle Tubes. Material SA 210 Gr. A-1, size 45.0 mm OD x 4.9 mm MWT x 10,000 mm L
0011-038	1 job, Supply of Air Conditioning equipment & accessories, materials & consumables & provides labor, supervision, tools & equipment & install, test & commission the Air Conditioning System
0012-011-TES	34 pcs., Fan Propeller for fan, Model No. LPT 360A with shaft, Fan Belt, B80 and Pillow Block, UCP 205, sealed type, NBR pillow block by Showa Pillow Block Manufacturing Co., Ltd. or equivalent, S/P for Turbine Generator Roof Exhaust Fans, Model No. LPT 360A, Maint. Bull No. IM 13-115 (10/93)
0012-012	15 boxes, Form, NPC Warehouse Transaction, 4 ply continuous computer paper with side perforation & sprocket holes, carbonized, size 11" x 14 7/8" width, 4 copies/set, 250 sets/box
0101-005-TES	16 pcs., LP Differential Expansion Sensor, Type VF-71A, Shaft Position Sensor, Type VF-71BA, Absolute Expansion Sensor, Type AD9, Relative Shaft Vibration Sensor, Transducer Type V7100RA, Absolute Bearing Shaft Vibration Sensor, Type V80 and HIP Differential Expansion Sensor, Type DD2GHT, Manufactured by CIS Amrein A.G.
0101-007	4 pcs. LBS (Node) Transceiver, Model OPT BOX, Type LBS-2CH, Manufactured by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. with 15 pcs. Spare Electronic Component, DC to DC Converter, Model CX715-24, Brand CR1 and Integrated Circuit (IC), Model DC 9007SN, SN 300964, Brand Hitachi
0101-009-TES	1 lot, Studio Master Power House Vision, Model 708, Directional Microphone, Speaker Cable, Type TF Wire, Community Two Way Loudspeaker System, Model CSX35-S2 or equivalent and Desk Stand Microphone
0101-013	30 sets, Fall Protection, quick-connect harness features only one set of Buckles to connect, made of lightweight nylon webbing and forged steel D-ring
0101-015	4 sets, Portable/Handheld Radio, UHF/FM, field programmable, 16 channel capacity, frequency range 403-470 MHz, Multiple Coded Squelch (DPL/PL)
0101-023-TES	1 lot, S/P for Digital Flame Scanner, Manufactured by ABB-CE, consisting of 16 items
0101-030-TES	1 lot, Various Sea Water Jetting Pipes and Fittings for Ash Slurry Pit, consisting of 18 items
0101-034-TES	24 pcs., Dynawear, Coal Fuel Pipe Elbow, consisting of various Part Numbers, Manufactured by ABB C-E Service, Inc.

DATE OF BIDDING ---- MARCH 16, 2001

REFERENCE	BRIEF DESCRIPTION
0102-002	2800 liters, Amberjet 1200 Na, Strongly Acidic Cation Exchange Resin and Amberjet 4200 C1, Strongly Basic Anion Exchange Resin for floating & packed bed operation
0102-010	67 prs., Work Safety Shoes, lightweight flexible soft leather uppers for everyday comfort use, Compliance ANZI Z41 1983 Class 75, heavy duty
0102-016	1500 cyls., Industrial Oxygen, 99.5% purity, 5.66 cu.m/cyl. At 1800 psi tank press. and Dissolved Acetylene, min. purity 99.5%, 3.5 cu.m/cyl., 200-300 psi tank press.
0102-020	90 pcs., V-Belt, Toothed, 5 V x 1800, for Crusher spare belts
0102-021-TES	350 MT, Supply, hauling/handling, storage and delivery of Liquid Caustic Soda, rayon grade, for approx. six-month open contract tentatively from April 1 to September 30, 2001
0102-022	7 bots., Tuning Solution, Ultra Pure Blank Nitric Acid, Internal Solution Standard and Calibration Standard, Chemical Reagents for ICP-MS
0102-023	1 lot, Various Office Supplies, consisting of 21 items
0102-024	
0102-025	380 pcs. Lumber, Tanguile or equivalent, sizes 1" x 6" x 14' & 2" x 4" x 16' and 20 kgs. Common Nail, size 2"
0102-026	1 job, Supply of labor, materials and equipment for the chemical cleaning of one unit Seawater/Freshwater Heat Exchanger. Pre-bid conference is scheduled on March 6, 2001, 2:00 PM at the NPC Old Building, Bonifacio Drive, Port Area, Manila. Qualified suppliers/contractors must attend the said conference.
0102-027-TES	400 pcs., Return Idler Rollers with and without rubber disc ring for 1400 & 1050 mm belt width
0102-028-TES	1 unit, Gear Box/Reduction Gear, excluding motor, Type AF 90, 50/60 Hz, SN 11B044L001, 22 KW, 4 poles, ratio 1:20, Manufactured by SSK Reduction Gear, Toshiba Corp., Spare for B10 and B14 Belt Conveyor Reduction Gear
0102-029-TES	1 lot, S/P for Powerhouse Reciprocating Liquid Chillers, Manufactured by Carrier Corp., consisting of 6 items
0102-030-TES	1 lot, S/P for Electrocatalytic (ELCAT) Electrolyzer, Model MKII, Production Capacity 120 kgs/hr., Chlorine Concentrate 1720 ppm, Flow rate 5 cu.m/hr., Manufactured by ELCAT Electrocatalytic, Ltd., consisting of 22 items
0102-031-TES	1 lot, Spare Electronic Modules for Siwertell Screw Type Coal Unloader. Manufactured by Mitsubishi Electric, consisting of 12 items
0102-032-TES	8 pcs., Level Switch, with Spare Contact, for Lube Oil System, Type 1LS IP65-9, Bistable Switch Type Reed Contact, Manufactured by Mobrey
0102-033-TES	2 pcs., Temperature Indicating Controller, for Boiler Circulating Pump, Series 400, Model / Cat. No. 40-704014-424, Manufactured by Fenwal

Bid documents will be available to accredited suppliers starting February 26, 2001 and may be secured from Materials Management Division during working days from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM upon payment of P 25.00 for ONE ENVELOPE SYSTEM and P 50.00 for TWO ENVELOPE SYSTEM.

Sealed bids must be in triplicate and shall be accompanied by Bidder's Bond equivalent to 5% of the total bid price in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Irrevocable Letter of Credit, Bank Draft/Guarantee or Surety Bond from GSIS Insurance Commission.

The corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality contained therein and accept the bids considered most advantageous to the corporation.

For further information, please call 527-4861, 527-4873, 527-4892.

(Sgd.) **LORNA T. DY**
Officer-in-Charge
Regional Admin & Financial Services

(PDI--Feb. 24, 2001)

Inquirer's
Makati Branch

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NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Quezon City

NOTICE OF BIDDING

In compliance with Presidential authority for the importation of rice, the National Food Authority (NFA) wishes to announce that it will be holding a pre-bidding and bidding conference among NFA accredited suppliers (government and private) on **March 06, 2001** and **March 8, 2001**, respectively at 2:00 PM at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Bldg., 101 E. Rodriguez, Sr. Ave., Quezon City for the supply of a portion thereof up to ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (100,000) metric tons, 10% MOLSO, Long Grain White Rice 15% brokens and 25% brokens, packed in 50 kg net capacity, polypropylene bag, source from Vietnam, China and Thailand with shipment period not later than **April 15, 2001**. Detailed quality specifications shall be included in the bidding terms and conditions.

Price offers must be quoted in US$/MT, C&F, Free Out basis, 1 SP, 1-2 SB, basis at sight L/C and 180 days usance L/C. Maximum volume to be offered must be 50,000 MT and minimum of 25,000 MT, 10% MOLSO.

Sealed offers must be submitted between 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM on the bidding date accompanied by a bid bond equivalent to 10% of total offer in the form of Cashier's, Manager's check, bank or demand draft in US$ which must be drawn from a reputable Metro Manila bank or 100% stand-by irrevocable L/C valid for 120 days.

Opening of bids will start exactly at 2:00 PM.

Interested applicants for accreditation shall have until **March 05, 2001** to submit requirements for accreditation which may be secured from DMO-FOD, 5th Floor. Further, NFA accredited suppliers must submit documents to update records not later than 1700 HRS, **March 05, 2001**. Results of accreditation will be announced during the pre-bidding proper.

The bidding terms and conditions shall be available at the Foreign Operations Division - Directorate for Marketing Operations, 5th Floor starting **27 February 2001** from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

The National Food Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any required formalities or defects found therein and may accept bid/s most advantageous to the Agency.

(Sgd.) **DOMINGO F. PANGANIBAN**
Administrator

(PDI--Feb. 22, 23 & 24, 2001)

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES
PUBLIC ESTATES AUTHORITY
7th FLOOR LEGASPI TOWERS 200, PASEO DE ROXAS, CITY OF MAKATI, METRO MANILA
TELEPHONE NUMBERS: 817-47-11 * 817-47-12 * 817-47-13
817-5017 * 817-5018 * 817-5014 * 813-1441/46
FAX (632) 815-2662 * 815-2660 * 817-3127
ZIP CODE 1226

NOTICE OF SALE

The Public Estates Authority (PEA), is inviting prospective buyers for any one or all of its four (4) parcels of reclaimed lands located at the Central Business Park I - Island A in Pasay City with the following areas, to wit:

Block	Area
C2	23,735 square meters
C3	28,500 square meters
C4	19,766 square meters
C5	16,861 square meters
Total Area	88,862 square meters

The sale shall be done by and through direct negotiation with PEA.

Individual prospective buyers should be Filipino citizen and in case of corporations, the same must at least be 60% owned by Filipinos.

These parcels of land will be sold on "as is, where is" or rawland basis.

The selling price shall be subject to negotiation with PEA.

Any party interested to submit his offer to buy shall file a bid surety in an amount equivalent to 10% of the price offer.

For any inquiry or additional information relative to this Notice of Sale, please contact the undersigned at the Public Estates Authority, 8th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City or at telephone numbers 817-4711 to 13 & 817-6918.

(Sgd.) **CARLOS P. DOBLE**
General Manager

(PDI – Feb. 15, 18 & 24, 2001)

ANNOUNCEMENT

Please be informed of our new classified advertising rates effective **February 1, 2001 issue.**

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
(National Edition)
Box Ad - P230.00/col. cm.
Line Ad - P 65.00/line
Obituaries - P230.00/col. cm.

JOB MARKET
(Metro Manila Edition)
Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.

Color Surcharge for NC and JM
1 spot color - 30%
2 spot color - 60%
Full color - 80%

CLASSIFIED ASSETS
Box Ad - P190.00/col. cm.
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* Rates are VAT exclusive

People, Events & Products

REZ GOPEZ-SINDAC, Editor

TeleMessage launches call center

MA-AN B. Hontiveros, chair and CEO of TeleMessage Philippines, Inc., the country's leading telephony solutions provider, announced the launching of the company's fully-automated and multimedia live call center. The TeleMessage Call Center is in response to the growing need of businesses to have their critical activities in marketing and customer care delivered faster, easier and more effectively.

The Call Center avails of the infrastructure of TeleMessage, which pioneered innovative customer interface solutions services in the Philippines such as Interactive Voice Response (IVR) and Audiotex applications. TeleMessage is the only value-added service and solutions provider equipped with state-of-the-art, carrier-grade technology called the Trilogue Infinity System. This intelligent network platform is supported by powerful service creative tools such as the VoiceLogue, GenLogue and DataLogue that allow for optimum flexibility in planning, creating and modifying services requested by clients.

The TeleMessage system can handle over a hundred telephone calls simultaneously, which can be expanded to accommodate the call traffic requirements of clients. It is a full-service bureau that can provide services from concept development, implementation, post-production, fulfillment and creative support. This service bundling capability provides for an efficient and effective integration of automated and multimedia live call center systems.

ALL PRIME VALUES INSURANCE AGENCY INC

CONTRACT SIGNING

GE Life recently forged a contract with All Prime Values Insurance Agency, Inc. (APVIA) as its general agent. Present at the contract signing are (from left) Cresciente M. Alday Jr., GE Life SVP, Individual Insurance Division; Edgar Refuerzo, APVIAI executive vice president; Eulogio A. Mendoza, GE Life president and CEO; Ramon S. Orosa, APVIAI president; and Bienvenido L. Saplala, APVIAI consultant.

ALLSTATE LIFE FIRST AWARDS NIGHT

Allstate Life Philippines recently held its first awards celebration and 2001 kick off at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Highlight of the celebration was the honoring of the top achievers of the year 2000. Shown are (from left) Rob. Macpherson, sales director; Romeo Abada, chief actuary; Mark Migallos, field support director; Catherine Noble, Champion Producers Club awardee; Noel Noble, Chairman's Council awardee and Agent of the Year; Lou Collada, Chairman's Council awardee and Regional Director of the Year; and Chito Collada, Chairman's Council awardee; Susan Arceo, VP operations; Marlene Aguilar; human resources director. Behind them are (from left) Allstate Life Philippines chair Fred Hansen and Allstate Life Philippines president Dan Daly.

INVESTMENT FIRM OPENS MAIN OFFICE

Multinational Telecommunications Investors Corp. (MultiTel), a company that offers a 4 percent monthly interest on your investment, which starts at incredibly low amount of P10,000, inaugurated its sprawling corporate headquarters at the Enterprise Center along Ayala Avenue in Makati City. Shown during the inauguration are Rose Baladjay, president and chair of the board (center) with her staff.

STRATEGIC PLANNING SEMINAR

It was a spirited exchange of ideas and expectations for the year 2001 as DYR-Alcantara held recently its Strategic Planning Session at the Don Eugenio Lopez Training Center in Antipolo, Rizal. Perceived as most candid, productive and successful planning sessions by far, DYR-Alcantara focused it sights on improving the quality of service of the agency and enhancing its client's business.

Latest RP history books at discounted price

FILIPINIANA and religious books publisher NEW Day Publishers is offering a discounted price for a single purchase of four latest historical books authored by distinguished and well-known Filipino historians like Ambeth Ocampo, Rosario Mendoza Cortes, Cesar Pobre, Ricardo Jose and Celestial Boncan.

Total price of the four books is P3,885, while its regular price is listed in the following order: Philippine Presidents: 100 Years, P880 (soft bound); Philippine Legislature: 100 Years, P880 (soft bound); History of the Armed Forces of the Filipino People, P1,500 (hard bound); and The Filipino Saga, P625 (soft bound). The customer can save by as much as P385 as the price has been reduced to P3,500. However, if he will only buy one copy or three copies, he has forfeited the discount.

New Day Publishers is located at 11 Lands ST., VASRA, Quezon City. For more inquiries, call 928-8046 or 927-8952. Promo until end of March 2001 only.

JIL Mandaluyong celebrates 10th year

THE JESUS is Lord (JIL) Church Mandaluyong City Chapter will celebrate its 10th anniversary on March 4, 2001 at the Mandaluyong City Gymnasium. The program, which will start at 7 a.m., will be followed by a free medical mission at the JID district office on 664 Sgt. Bumatay St. from 1-5 p.m. Everyone is invited.

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"We know that God raised the Lord Jesus from death. He will raise us to life with Jesus. He will present us, along with you, to God."
2 Cor. 4:14

The family of the late

Eleuteria Sandobal Ygbuhay

of Coron, Palawan

*(Died on February 16, 2001
at the age of 95)*

wishes to convey their sincere thanks and appreciation to friends and relatives, most especially Castelo Family, Reyes Family, Cabañero Family, Mr. & Mrs. Mon Tejada, Mr. & Mrs. Jun Sulit, Vic and Reggie Sandoval, Rene Concordia, who condoled with them in their hour of bereavement.

ATTY. RAUL V. ROQUE

Peacefully joined our Lord
on February 22, 2001.

His loving family, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Magallanes Chapel.

There will be a 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Magallanes Chapel.

Interment will be in Manila Memorial Dasmariñas, Cavite on Sunday, February 25, 2001 at 3:00 p.m.

On February 19, 2001

Evelina Ledesma Magalona

Peacefully joined Our Lord at the age of 77.

We, her family: husband **Rene**; children **Jose** and **Cale**, **Onyol** and **Marinel**, **Alice** and **Raul**, **Wawo** and **Marita**, **Tony** and **Vivian**, **Tina** and **Sammy**, **Bing** and **John**; grandchildren, relatives and friends, ask you to join us as we thank and praise God for the fruitful life she lived and the way she touched our lives.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Tanza St., Iloilo City.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 25, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. at the Jaro Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. memorial service at Tanza Church.

Ex-Mayor Dr. Francisco Canares Mogueis, Jr.

of San Fernando, Masbate

*Peacefully joined his Creator on February 22, 2001
at the age of 78.*

His loving wife **Josefina**; children **Marivic** and **Jojie**, **Francisco** and **Jenny**, **Alfred** and **Lizette**, **Gigi** and **June**, **Fernando**, **Victor Josephine**, **Joy** and **Bong** and grandchildren **Tintin**, **Frank Michelle**, **Spike**, **Kristel**, **Krizia**, **Kevin**, **John**, **Jemimah**, **Justin**, **Louis**, **Windsor**, **John Mart**, **Yazmine**, **Jowen**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, Chapel 2-C, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be at his home town.

---

*"The Lord is my shepherd,
I shall not want;
In verdant pastures
He gives me repose..."*

We Thank the Lord Almighty
for

DEAGELIA (LILY) TANDOC DOMINGO

of Dagupan City

who peacefully entered eternal life
on
Thursday, February 22, 2001

and for lending 47 of the 71 precious years of her life to her bereaved husband P. O. Domingo; her grieving children Sonia, Cynthia, Joey and Tootsie Dominguez, Lizza, Rene; and her loving grandchildren Jonathan, Stefanie, Diana and Elizabeth.

Her remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Hall of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, Broadway, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2001 at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque City after the 8 o'clock a.m. Holy Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, Broadway, Quezon City.

Our Beloved RLC Fraternity Brother

ENG'R. DANIEL "DANDIE" V. VELOSO

of Lucban, Quezon & Makati City Building Official

has peacefully joined his Creator on February 16, 2001 at the age of 42.

We wish to convey our condolences to his family: father Amado; brother Tony and sister Vina and we request his friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Veloso residence at #65 Gomburza St., Lucban, Quezon.

Interment will be on Sunday, February 25, 2001 after the Holy Mass at 1:00 p.m. at the St. Luis Catholic Church.

"From darkness let the light shine!"
Gen. 1:3

CONCHA VERGARA SUGAY

Of Angeles City

Peacefully joined our Creator on February 22, 2001 at the age of 92.

Her remains lie in state at Angelina Memorial Chapels, Angeles City.

Interment today, February 24, 2001, after the 3:00 PM Holy Mass at the La Pieta Memorial Park, Angeles City.

In Loving Memory

on the First year Death Anniversary of

Presentacion Zavalla Silva

February 26, 2001

Holy Masses will be offered in her memory on February 26, 2001 at the following churches:

Nuestra Señora de Guia Parish, *Ermita, Manila*	7:30 AM
Our Lady of Remedios Parish, *M. H. Del Pilar, Malate, Manila*	7:00 AM
Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish, *Bel-Air Village, Makati City*	6:30 AM
Saint Alphonsus Mary de Liguori, *Magallanes Village, Makati City*	7:00 AM
Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, *San Marcelino, Ermita, Manila*	7:15 AM
Santuario de San Antonio Parish, *Mckinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City*	7:30 AM
Saint John Bosco Parish, *Pasay Road, Makati City*	6:30 AM 7:30 AM
Santa Rosa de Lima Parish, *Santa Rosa, Laguna*	6:00 AM

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CESAR D. MANGAWANG, Editor ■ STELLA O. GONZALES, Assistant Editor

Gov't trashes scientists' view on garbage, say UP professors

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

INSTEAD of opportunists whose only motivation is to profit from the garbage crisis, why not consult Filipino scientists who would gladly help for the love of science and country?

Dr. Rhodora V. Azanza, dean of the college of science and professor of Marine Science at the University of the Philippines, made this remark in a Feb. 21 discussion titled "Talking Trash: A Scientific Discussion on Garbage" at the UP College of Science auditorium. The event was capped by the disclosure of findings of three UP scientists on the garbage crisis.

Azanza told the INQUIRER that few people from the government are aware these Filipino scientists are invited as experts and consultants in many countries, and have published works supported by the international community.

Azanza said scientists stressed that their voices should be heard particularly in an important societal issue like garbage, which demands a thorough study and scientific approach.

Scientific approach

Geology assistant professor Dr. Carlo Arcilla, College of Science's associate dean for students and public affairs, disclosed that the high emotional level surrounding the garbage issue should be replaced by a more rational and scientific approach.

"One of these days, the scientific community has to move in and tell people we can help. The government and lawmakers tell us they couldn't understand us. *Pinahihirap daw namin* (We're allegedly making it hard for them). But it is our duty to tell them all those things. We have been trying to put the explanations in common language," said Azanza.

Azanza and Arcilla convened the seminar on garbage as they felt the views of scientists had been left out. Azanza has often been consulted internationally on issues such as the red tide phenomenon. Arcilla is a US-trained geologist and an assistant professor at the National Institute of Geological Sciences.

Contamination

UP professor in civil engineering Dr. Guillermo Tabios disclosed his findings on the sources and mechanisms of groundwater contamination. He explained that not only landfills contribute to groundwater contamination but buried deposits as well. He cited sources as large underground storage tanks and septic tanks. Tabios has a Ph.D. in hydrology from the Colorado State University. His presentation bucked the common claim that "what you can't see won't hurt you."

Landfill design

Meanwhile, environmental engineer Florencio Ballesteros who is also an assistant professor at the UP's department of chemical engineering, showed the scientific aspects of landfill design. He explained how the current technology on landfill design is multifaceted, from site selection, to geological screening and placement of geomembranes to prevent seepage into the groundwater. Ballesteros, who has a master's degree from the University of Illinois, demonstrated that landfills can be designed effectively to protect the environment.

Arcilla stressed the difficulty of siting a landfill close to Metro Manila. He referred to an earlier study of National Institute of Geological Science's Dr. Fernando Siringan, who mentioned that Manila cannot be a good site for landfills because a big part of the city is gradually sinking at the rate of several centimeters per year. Also cited was the recent work of Dr. Arthur Saldivar Sali that says leachates could be seeping into the watershed reservation.

"While there could be localities having clay-rich bedrock which are ideal for landfill foundations, the biggest problem concerning siting is still social acceptability, or the NIMBY (not-in-my-backyard) attitude," said Arcilla.

He said that though recycling efforts are good, the numbers show that not all solid wastes can be recycled and segregated. He concluded that there is still a need for locating a landfill.

Reasonable cost

Engineer Juergen Lorenz of Pro-environment Consortium demonstrated a process that integrated recycling segregation and baling of the reduced volume of residual garbage that he claimed could work for Manila at a reasonable cost.

Dr. Leandro Viloria, former dean of the UP's school of urban planning showed sociological perspectives while Dr. Eric Punzalan, a chemist at the De La Salle University, touched on environmental consciousness.

"When someone you love is very sick, you would choose a doctor who is well trained—maybe cold and efficient—but can do the job. You would avoid an overly emotional *albularyo* who could only give palliatives and not truly curative measures," said Punzalan.

Ginseng boosts learning, energy levels

MANY consider ginseng as the highly respected herb from the Orient that the Chinese have been using for over 5,000 years. Ginseng is used to reduce the effects of stress, improve performance, boost energy levels, enhance memory and stimulate the immune system. It is said to relieve both mental and bodily fatigue, and neutralize the effects of aging.

According to Dr. Laurence Wang of the Department of Biological Sciences, University of Alberta, ginseng significantly enhances learning and memory. This conclusion was based on the research, which he and his colleagues in the university's Traditional Medicine Research Program performed. This research was a collaboration of laboratories headed by Doctors Venishin and Pang from the physiology department; Doctors H.J. Liu from chemistry and Wang himself from biological sciences.

Enhancing learning

The ability of ginseng in enhancing short-term learning and memory was considered as a functional index or surrogate parameter for its purported antiaging effect. To provide evidence that can be scrutinized by western pharmacological standards, the researchers chose to investigate single compounds isolated from ginseng which were believed to possess the biological activity responsible for the beneficial effect on short-term learning and memory.

Dr. Wang's group identified one of the ginsenosides in ginseng, namely Rbl, isolated by Dr. Liu as the one responsible for enhancing short-term memory and learning. The researchers have shown in animal models that Rbl improves the functioning of the nerves and the brain centers responsible for memory and learning. Synaptosomal uptake of brain neuro transmitters is enhanced by ginseng.

Studies indicate that the efficacy of Rbl in enhancing short-term learning and memory includes a direct stimulation of the uptake in the nerve endings of the precursor for acetyl choline synthesis and the release of these substance via a novel mechanism which was previously not too well understood. This enhanced brain acetyl choline metabolism by Rbl in partially eradicating memory deficits may explain why ginseng has been used in Chinese traditional medicine as a potent herbal against aging.

The authors said their studies have clearly shown that ginseng's bioactive ingredient, Rbl, can exert significant pharmacological actions on specific brain neurons and organelles involved in neurophysiological and cognitive functions.

Bioactive ingredient

Locally, ginseng-containing vitamins have been widely used to promote mental and physical stamina, improve digestion, metabolism and endurance, enhance sexual function and reduce symptoms of exhaustion and fatigue. Many have also used it for mental fatigue, especially by students reviewing for their exams. The study by Dr. Wang and his colleagues support the belief that ginseng can stimulate learning and improve mental function.

Other researchers have identified more than 20 active components of ginseng known as saponins or ginsenosides. Studies show that ginseng can stimulate biosynthesis of proteins, increase plasma levels of adrenocorticotopic hormone (ACTH) and corticosterone, and inhibit thrombin-induced conversion of fibrinogen to fibrin preventing platelet aggregation and experimental disseminated coagulation. It can control body homeostasis by enabling the endocrine system to influence cellular enzyme activity and enable the aging heart and brain tissues to sustain activity even under anaerobic conditions with diminished oxygen supply. It can also increase the capacity of skeletal muscles of animals to produce cellular energy by oxidizing free fatty acids rather than glucose.

Food supplement

Royal jelly is known to help increase energy, restore sex drive, improve the quality of skin tone and help in treating the symptoms of menopause. It is a complete protein containing all essential amino acids and B-vitamins. It has been shown to be an energizing tonic for both sexes.

Trianon Ginseng Royal Jelly is available at Mercury Drug stores as an over-the-counter food supplement. It is imported from HealthCo International of Illinois, United States. HealthCo has been consistently voted as one of the leading sources of high-quality food supplements in the United States. The recommended dose is one capsule daily in the morning. When a second dose is necessary, it should be taken after lunch since the mental and physical stimulation it produces may cause difficulty in sleeping at night. This, however, may be beneficial for students at night or workers and drivers on overtime work to keep them awake at night.

Probe of 6 graft cases vs ex-DOH officials pursued

BY JERRY ESPLANADA

AFTER NEARLY four years, the Ombudsman has decided to push through with the investigation of six graft cases involving alleged irregularities in the purchase of P40 million worth of HIV, hepatitis and malaria test equipment and blood bags by the health department and the National Kidney and Transplant Institute.

The items were either overpriced or bought without public bidding, said the Philippine Association of Blood Banks, which filed in May 1997 all six cases.

Dr. Samuel Jardinico, PABB president, named at least 15 DOH and NKTI officials and executives of four drug firms in complaints filed with the Ombudsman.

Among the respondents in the graft cases were former DOH Secretary Carmencita Reodica; former DOH Undersecretaries Jaime Galvez-Tan, Juan Nañagas and Manuel Roxas; former NKTI executive director Filoteo Alano; Aileen Javier, NKTI deputy chief; Dr. Juanito Billote of the NKTI laboratory department; and Dr. Honorata Baylon, head of the National Voluntary Blood Donation Program.

Also cited in the complaints were the following suppliers: Francisco Abalos, general manager of FVA-Exim Trading Corp.; Rosendo Fulgar, country manager of Organon-Teknika Philippines; Rainer Gloor and Luis Caverte Jr., president and sales manager of Zuellig Pharma; Reinerio Esmaquel, country manager of Becton-Dickinson; Alsola Rellosa, product manager of Royal School Laboratories; and Ricardo Cruz, owner of Jerr Marketing.

The Ombudsman, who found the PABB's complaints "sufficient in form and substance," has asked the respondents to file their counter-affidavits.

These cases, Jardinico noted, pointed to violations of Republic Act 3019, otherwise known as the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act; RA 7719 or the National Blood Services Act; RA 6713 or the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees; and Executive Order 175 which amended RA 3720 or the Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, among others.

In Ombudsman case No. 0974, the PABB cited the NKTI for alleged irregularities in the purchase of Terumo blood bags in 1994, amounting to almost P4 million.

According to the PABB, the items were overpriced by P1,151,112.60. No public bidding was conducted for the purchase.

Alano "approved and signed the purchase orders but not divulging the fact that he was a part-owner of the supplier FVA-Exim Trading," Jardinico told the Ombudsman.

In case 0975, the NKTI was cited for the June 1995 purchase of P4.5 million worth of Vironostika HIV Uniform II, a brand of HIV test kit not registered with the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

The NKTI purchase order clearly stated that the funds were intended for the purchase of Vironostika HIV Mixt 1+2, a product registered with BFAD, Jardinico said.

HIV and hepatitis test kits bought in January 1996 by the NKTI for P14,157,247.50 were the subject of case 0976.

"The negotiated purchase caused losses to government amounting to P4,479,007.50, considering that the same items bought earlier by the NKTI through a bidding cost only P9,678,240," the PABB said.

Some P8-million worth of Terumo blood bags acquired in November 1996 by the DOH without public bidding was cited by the PABB in case no. 0977.

"As in 1994 and 1995, the purchase was highly overpriced compared to purchases made by the Philippine National Red Cross and commercial blood banks, leading to losses of more than P3 million," said the complaint.

In case 0978, the DOH was cited for the purchase of 26 units of QBC malaria test equipment, amounting to P5.92 million, from Zuellig Pharma.

"The purchase was made without public bidding but the bigger anomaly lies in the fact that DOH should not have bought the equipment because Zuellig normally provides them on loan basis. QBC is a closed system, which means that equipment and reagent go together. You cannot use one without the other. Since DOH is buying the test kits, Zuellig is bound to lend the equipment," PABB pointed out.

In case 0978, the PABB cited the DOH for the acquisition of P2.16 million worth of Serodia HIV test kits, "overpriced by as much as 15.6 percent" and bought without public bidding.

The kits were only intended for HIV 1, not 1+2, a violation of the DOH Manual of Standards for Blood Banks and Blood Centers. "Why did the NVBDP, which is supposed to know better, violate its own standards?" the PABB asked.

In 1997, the Ombudsman ordered the filing of criminal charges against Galvez-Tan and several other former top officials of the DOH and the NKTI for approving the purchase of P14.2 million in "grossly overpriced" blood bags in 1994 and 1995.

The Commission on Audit had earlier declared as anomalous the appropriations, said to be overpriced by about P2 million.

Aside from Galvez-Tan, who is no longer with the health department, the other respondents also face administrative sanctions for "gross misconduct," in violation of RA.

Ombudsman investigators disclosed that DOH and NKTI purchases totaled P8.03 million and P6.22 million, respectively.

NKI and FVA-Exim Trading entered into a negotiated contract sometime in 1994.

In justifying the purchase orders, NKI officials had claimed the supplies were "sold by an exclusive dealer (FVA-Exim Trading) which does not have a subdealer selling at a lower price and which no suitable substitute can be obtained elsewhere at a more advantageous price to the government."

The DOH approved the purchase orders supposedly upon the recommendation of the NKTI head.

COA's resident auditor at the NKTI, however, disallowed in its post-audit the transactions "on the ground that the hospital failed to conduct a public bidding as required under existing accounting and rules and regulations," the Ombudsman said.

Affirming the COA findings, Desierto said the institute "should have conducted a public bidding in the purchase of the blood bags."

"The contention of NKTI officials that the conduct of a public bidding for a public bidding would cause delay in the implementation of the program is without merit. Records show that from the time of its conceptualization in 1993 to its formal launch in 1994, NKTI had ample time to plan the implementation of the project and to conduct a public bidding for that matter," Desierto added.

The warning signs of breast cancer

ALTHOUGH it develops with enough stealth to surprise the unwary, breast cancer, which is the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Filipino women, nonetheless exhibits various symptoms that, when detected early, can help the victim survive the disease.

For nearly 80 percent of women with breast cancer, the discovery of a mass or lump in the breast is the first and most common alarming sign. But even if biopsy actually shows that 8 out of every 10 lumps discovered turn out to be non cancerous, this should not mean that you do not have to see the doctor immediately after the discovery of a spacious lump. You should waste no time in having your breasts examined by a competent physician.

A clear, bloody or colored discharge from the nipple is another common sign of a potential problem. Although a discharge may be perfectly normal in women who are not breastfeeding, it is clearly an alarming symptom when a small amount of discharge comes out of several openings in both breasts, as in the case of breast cancer. This sign may be apparent whether or not the breasts are squeezed.

Other signs of cancer include a change in the shape or size of the breast or swelling of the skin that covers it. The breast tissue may feel thicker, even though there is no lump. There may be pain or redness of the skin. The nipple may be sore or retract inside the breast. You should have a doctor examine any sores on the nipples or breast that do not clear up after two weeks of treatment with a prescribed cream or lotion.

What you should know about chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

LUNG cancer is the disease most publicized as the primary health risk of smokers. But the toxins in nicotine and tar can also cause another life-threatening disease. Though it isn't a household name yet it is just as lethal. It progresses slowly, almost imperceptibly, worsening over time until the simple task of inhaling and exhaling becomes difficult, even incapacitating. It is called Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Understanding its causes, symptoms and treatment can save your lungs—and your life.

What is COPD?

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a term that is used for two closely related diseases of the respiratory system: chronic bronchitis and emphysema. In many patients these diseases occur together, although there may be more symptoms of one than the other. Most patients with these diseases, have a long history of heavy cigarette smoking. COPD gets gradually worse over time. At first there may be only a mild shortness of breath and occasional coughing. Then a chronic cough develops with clear, colorless sputum (phlegm expelled orally). As the disease progresses, the cough becomes more frequent and more and more effort is needed to get air into and out of the lungs. Eventually death may occur if the function of the lungs and heart is no longer adequate to deliver oxygen to the body's organs and tissues.

What causes COPD?

Cigarette smoking is the most important risk factor for COPD. It would probably be a minor health problem if people did not smoke. Other risk factors include exposure to air pollution at work and in the environment, and a history of childhood respiratory infections.

How many Filipinos have COPD?

According to the latest Philippine Health Statistics (1994), COPD with its allied conditions is the seventh leading cause of death. By year 2020, due to the high prevalence of smoking in developing countries, the World Health Organization predicts that COPD will be ranked No. 4 in the list of leading causes of disease in developing countries. Today, around 50 percent of Filipinos are smokers, who are, therefore, potential or actual COPD sufferers.

COPD attacks people at the height of their productive years, disabling them with constant shortness of breath. It can destroy their ability to earn a living and disrupts the lives of the victims' family members for as long as 20 years before death occurs.

What are chronic bronchitis and emphysema?

Chronic bronchitis involves the constant irritation of the bronchial tubes that branch into the lungs from years of cigarette smoke or air pollution, causing their walls to thicken. The passage becomes narrower, producing more mucus to further block the airways, so that much less air flows through. The mucus is then expelled through prolonged coughing every day for months. A person is considered to have chronic bronchitis if cough and sputum are present on most days for a minimum of three months for at least two successive years, or for six months during a year. There also may be narrowing of the large and small airways, making it more difficult to move air in and out of the lungs.

Emphysema also results from long-term irritation of bronchial tubes, which gradually affects the tiny sacs in the lungs called alveoli, which trap air. The alveoli stretch out and break down, and once destroyed, cannot be repaired. The lung's smallest air passages, called bronchioles, may also narrow or collapse, limiting airflow out of the lungs.

Are smokers more likely to get COPD than nonsmokers?

Studies show that lung function—a measure of the health of the lungs assessed by its ability to move air into and out of the lungs—declines slowly with age, even in healthy nonsmokers. In smokers, however, lung function tends to worsen much more rapidly. Experts have shown that a 50-year-old smoker can have a 75-year-old lung. If a smoker stops smoking before serious COPD develops, the rate at which lung function declines returns to almost normal. Unfortunately, if COPD remains undiagnosed or untreated too long, much lung damage cannot be reversed. When this happens, the lung's functions are unlikely to return completely to normal. It's a simple equation: the sooner you quit smoking, the sooner you stop the damage being done to your lungs.

What are the symptoms of COPD?

The earliest symptom of COPD is a daily morning cough with clear sputum. Wheezing--a sound like a musical note that is audible when exhaling--is likely to occur, especially during or after colds or other respiratory tract infections. Shortness of breath develops later, and progressively becomes worse until breathlessness occurs after even simple physical activity, like pushing a shopping cart or walking up a flight of stairs.

How is COPD treated?

There is no cure for COPD. But the disabling symptoms can be reduced once the disease is diagnosed and treatment starts early enough. Because cigarette smoking is the most important cause of COPD, not smoking almost always prevents COPD from developing, and quitting smoking slows the disease's progress. There are medicines and behavioral therapy to help one quit smoking.

The most effective course of action to relieve symptoms is to open up the airways and ease breathing, and this is accomplished via bronchodilators, more commonly referred to as inhalers. Certain bronchodilators can be lifesaving during an attack of breathlessness.

There is a wide range of bronchodilators that come in different types, each with its own way of working and specific use. The anticholinergic beta 2-agonist and theophylline bronchodilators control muscle tissue around airways, relaxing them from constriction. If a single type of bronchodilator is not enough, it is sometimes necessary to use a combination of both. Breathing the medicine in by using an inhaler, rather than taking it in the more conventional tablet or syrup form, allows it to work more quickly as a reliever and reduces the risk of side effects as a much smaller dose can be given as needed. In mild COPD, the doctor may prescribe use of the inhaler only when the patient feels breathless; in moderate COPD, it is used more regularly, from two to four times a day.

What is the survival rate for COPD patients?

Survival of patients with COPD is closely related to the level of their lung function when they are diagnosed, and the rate at which they lose this function. Overall, the average survival rate is about 10 years for patients with COPD who have lost approximately two-thirds of their normally expected lung function at diagnosis.

How can COPD patients cope with their illness?

In most instances of COPD, some irreversible damage has already occurred by the time the doctor diagnoses the disease. At this point, the patient and the family should learn as much as possible about the disease and how to live with it, so that symptoms can be kept under control, and daily living can proceed as normally as possible. Your doctor and other health care providers are good sources of information about COPD. For patients with more severe symptoms a pulmonary rehabilitation program can help a lot.

Individuals with COPD or who are at risk for COPD can help themselves in two important ways. Stop smoking! And see your doctor and have your lungs tested. Doing so can halt the damage to your lungs and may even allow you to see your child graduate from college.

STAR OF ASIA AWARD

Filipino earns international recognition

A FILIPINO was chosen from Asia to be part of the 10 recipients of The Star of Asia Award all over the world.

Dr. Josef de Ubaldo, DSc., founder and president of the Philippine Federation of Natural Health and Environment Friendly Organizations, was chosen recipient of The Star of Asia Award given by the Senate of International Open University for Complementary Medicine affiliated to Medicina Alternativa (Alma Ata 1962). The award was given during the 36th anniversary celebration of Medicina Alternativa World Congress of the New Unified Medicine Beyond 2000 AD in the Third Millennium. The affair was held from Nov. 30 to Dec. 4 last year in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Dr. De Ubaldo was cited for his distinguished work in fostering the ideals for humanitarian service through peace, solidarity and understanding through integrated, holistic medicine. He was the pioneer in organizing natural health conferences and congresses in the country.

In 1998, he earned his Doctorate in Science (Alternative Medicine) from the Open University for Complementary Medicine, Indian Board of Alternative Medicine in Calcutta, India.

De Ubaldo successfully represented Philippine herbal products and medicines in various exhibitions of inventions, techniques and innovations in Geneva, Switzerland; Casa Blanca, Morocco; and Sofia, Bulgaria from 1996 to 1999, by garnering the Grand Prix Award, Gold and Silver Medals. He was the first Filipino appointed as official correspondent of Salon Internationale Des Inventions in Geneva, Switzerland, from 1996 to 1998.

DR. De Ubaldo wins The Star of Asia Award.

He is the author of the books "Integrated Health Care in the Philippines—Guide to Mind, Body and Spirit" and "Healing Arts for the 21st Century." He has just finished another book "Wounded No More," a journey into the world of Woundology and the latest, "Perspectives of Natural Health Anthology of Holistic Medicine."

The congresses he has pioneered are "First Philippine Congress and Exhibition on Natural Health," "Global Health Manille" and "First International Summit Conference on Alternative Medicine (Fiscam 2000)," which drew 20 foreign countries held at the Grand Boulevard Hotel on Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

He also organized the second Philippine Congress on Natural Health on Nov. 21-26 last year at the Traders Hotel Manila. His goal is to make the Philippines the herbal capital of the world.

The cow and butcher problem

BY QUEENA N. LEE-CHUA

TWO Saturdays ago (Feb.10), I ran two questions from an anonymous reader concerning variations of the cow and butcher problem. I also promised an autographed copy of my latest book to the first three readers who sent the correct solutions.

What I was not prepared for was the sheer volume of responses that crammed my e-mail box that weekend. The youngest is probably Augustine John Go of the Ateneo Grade School (Grade 6 Section Luna.) The oldest is—well, some secrets should forever remain undisclosed, shouldn't they? A former student (Raph Mondragon, who graduated in 1991) and a current student (Kirk Jon Khu) also answered. As of today, I have received more than 150 answers, and continue to do so. (By the way, please stop sending answers, the contest is long over). Thus, I decided to expand the prizes from three to 15. The long downloading time aside, I am happy to note that many Filipino readers all over the world (including the United States, Canada and Japan) wait for the column regularly. Here are the questions and answers:

Given that 3 butchers can slaughter 4 cows in 5 minutes, how long does it take 99 butchers to slaughter 132 cows?

The ratio of 99 butchers to 132 cows is the same as that of 3 butchers to 4 cows. Thus, the answer is still 5 minutes.

How many butchers are needed to slaughter 100 cows in 5 minutes?

Because it takes 3 butchers 5 minutes to slaughter 4 cows, it will take 25 teams of 3 butchers (or 75 butchers) the same amount of time (5 minutes) to slaughter 25 times more cows (or 100).

Our top winner, Ross Simeon, who sent in the answers as early as 1:30 on Saturday morning, wants a copy of the book to give to his kid, who likes math puzzles.

Lyn Dimaano (No. 6) says, "I woke up early today and got to read your column. The cow-butcher question and its variations used to be a regular stumper at math review gatherings. I have also seen this question in reviewers for SAT. Now, you've removed the mystery, but I am not complaining!"

Sandra Escandor (No. 15) says, "I am 17 years old and I am in Grade 12. I am a fan in Canada and I look forward to receiving an autographed copy of your book."

Mark Samson (No. 19) says, "Thank you for stimulating my brain on a dull Saturday afternoon. I am afraid this e-mail may be a tad too late, but nevertheless, it was fun."

Armando T. Quitain (No. 24) says, "I am part of the Department of Ecological Engineering in Toyohashi University of Technology in Japan. The cow-butcher problems are interesting but I am more interested in your book and the autograph! Your explanations to the 3-butchers-3cows-3 minutes were great! I just followed them. No special solutions are required—they are like typical ratio-and-proportion problems, since the rate of work for each butcher is the same."

Zaida Benavidez (No. 25) says, "I am a new reader. It's the first time I discovered your column in the Inquirer and it's a welcome change from the political issues, which are beginning to be tiresome. I seldom have time to read more than the headlines, more so have time to take part in a quiz like this. I enjoyed solving the problem. It made me reminisce on my high school days."

Raymond Libiran (No. 28) says, "I was tutoring my 14-year-old son Paolo, a sophomore in high school, on his algebra in my own humble way the past days and up to now I find math challenging and daunting as well. Upon reading today's column, I couldn't contain myself so I had to do some pencil pushing at that very instance. It gave me a high when I solved the problem in less than 3 minutes. Wow, I guess my biorhythmic level was at its peak today. I hope to learn more and be continuously fascinated by your informative and challenging column."

Teresa Tamayo (No. 29) says, "I always read your column when I come across it, and I especially love it when you give out brain teasers like these. I am also familiar with the variation given by the other reader, the one that goes, 'If 3 cats can catch 3 mice in 3 minutes, how many minutes will it take 100 cats to catch 100 mice?' I read it in an old Reader's Digest booklet."

Angel (No. 30) says, "I am an avid fan of your column. My week would not be complete without reading your article. I am not sure about my answers, but thank you for the challenge. This time I tried."

Greg Alva (No. 34) says, "While I regularly read your column, this is the first time that I am responding. You see, the questions bring back to me high school memories and nostalgia. Twenty years ago, we used to solve similar problems (mentally at that) in preparation for math competitions. In March 1981, our team (Manila Science High School) became the champion in the First National Mathematics Competition. If I'm not mistaken, Sr. Iluminada Coronel (then of Ateneo) organized that contest. Thank you very much for the puzzles, and may I also take this opportunity to call on my batchmates, MaSci Batch 1981, to attend our 20th year reunion this March 10 at the Manila Science High School grounds."

Ricardo Estipona Jr. (No. 35) says, "I have been reading your column since I was in college, and I have always been challenged by the math problems you and your readers post. Last Saturday's problems were really intriguing. Thank you and please continue your good work. God bless you."

The top 35 readers with correct answers are the following, including the time my box received their e-mail response:

1. Ross Simeon [boyets@pacific.net.ph] Saturday, 1:30:01 a.m.
2. Neil Simbulan [Neil.Simbulan@AIG.com], Saturday, 1:34:22 a.m.
3. Gene Baldonado [gbaldonado@fna.com], Saturday, 1:51:36 a.m.
4. Bern B. [airwolf23@usa.net], Saturday, 2:04:34 a.m.
5. Paul Casino [Paul.Casino@sumitomotrust.co.jp], Saturday, 5:10:19 a.m.
6. Lyn Dimaano [brains@pacific.net.ph]. Saturday, 8:38:01 a.m.
7. Kirk Jon Khu [babs@edsamail.com.ph], Saturday, 8:41:43 a.m.
8. Augustine John A. Go [justinego@edsamail.com.ph], Saturday, 10:02:13 a.m.
9. Anthony Y. Treyes [gpsbtony@hotmail.com], Saturday, 10:02:35 a.m.
10. Caleb Koo [caleb@usa.net], Saturday, 10:37:31 a.m.
11. Carlo R. Lumauig [louie@beachbums.ph], Saturday, 10:55:41 a.m.
12. Raph Mondragon [rmondragon888@hotmail.com], Saturday, 11:26:18 a.m.
13. Junard Badillo [jjakerb@yahoo.com], Saturday, 11:31:19 a.m.
14. Emmanuel Antig [palaone2000@yahoo.com]. Saturday, 11: 38:58 a.m.
15. Sandra Escandor [bescandor@globalserve.net], Saturday, 12:58:43 p.m.
16. Toni Tiffany Chunpeng [panpan@siliconvalley.com.ph], Saturday, 2:13:26 p.m.
17. Ismael Cruz [igcruzjr@yahoo.com], Saturday, 2:14:53 p.m.
18. Jonathan Lee [jonathanlee@pacific.net.ph], Saturday, 2:23:59 p.m.
19. Mark Samson [taygerwuds2000@yahoo.com], Saturday, 2:38: 48 p.m.
20. Nimrod Villegas [navillegas@hotmail.com], Saturday, 4:40: 19 p.m.
21. Nikki Gonzaga [09195657395Wmy.smart.com.ph], Saturday, 4:43:33 p.m.
22. Varghese P. Kallely [kallely@edsamail.com.ph], Saturday, 5:23:48 p.m.
23. K. T. Saldon [ktsaldon@wbi.ph], Saturday, 6:12:24 p.m.
24. Armando T. Quitain [quitain@,fujielab.eco.tutjp], Saturday, 7:09:53 p.m.
25. Zaida Benavidez [edza@pacific.net.ph], Saturday, 7:52:40 p.m.
26. Lawrence Materum [curvakid2@updiliman.com], Saturday, 8:14:56 p.m.
27. Erickson Martin [rowdy@nilaogag.com], Saturday, 9:20:57 p.m.
28. Raymond G. Libiran [jolib@edsamail.com.ph], Saturday, 9:54 17 p.m.
29. Teresa Paulette A. Tamayo [teresatamayo@edsamail.com.ph], Saturday, 10:15:58 p.m.
30. Angel [angelpal@ mozcom.com], Sunday, 2:10:49 a.m.
31. Eduardo C. Miguel [edmiguel@edsamail.com.ph], Sunday, 3:48:38 a.m.
32. Aljo Arceo [aljoar@ philonline.com], Saturday, 5:01:57 a.m.
33. Zorayda D. Zorilla [zenz@edsamail.com.ph], Sunday, 12:33: 34 p.m.
34. Greg R. Alva [cmu@ plantersbank.com.ph], Monday, 8:22:31 a.m.
35. Ricardo C. Estipona Jr. [ric@sfi.com.ph], Monday, 9:40:05 a.m.

Let us conclude by pondering on the reflections of Zorayda Zorilla (No. 33).

"I am glad you have a math column in a national newspaper. Reaching people in faraway places, or those who do not have access to a good education, especially in math, would make learning easier for them, or at least stimulate their interest. I hope the column would be issued daily, but then I think that would be hard for you since you also have to balance your time with teaching.

"Anyway, what is so dismal about the situation is that we have a lot of untapped mental potential. The training that people get in school is SQ insufficient for them to compete internationally. Moreover, not all people are given the chance to even go to school. Another bothersome fact is that the math difficulty is often 'sensationalized.' Difficulty is highlighted when improvement should be the focus. As a result, some people think that not doing good in math is fine, because that's how most people are. The perception is that, it's fine not to try to understand how these equations work, because it's the 'in' thing. I admit I don't have the statistics to prove that this is the general view, but these are real situations whose problem calls for a solution—that we don't have a competent math educational system."

Congratulations to the readers above, and let us never tire of using our minds.

* * *

Send your comments to me c/o Ateneo de Manila University, Math Department, Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Or e-mail me at queena@mathsci.math.admu.edu.ph.

SCISCOPE

Summer short courses

THE UP Manila College of Public Health, through the Department of Health Policy and Administration, will hold the following: Basic Course in Management of the Health System for Middle-level Health Professionals—March 26-April 6; Short Course in Hospital Administration—April 16-April 27; Short Course in Program Evaluation—April 30-May 11; Short Course in Human Resource Management in the Health Sector—May 14-18; Short-term Summer Course in Preventive Dentistry—May 7-11; Advance Course in Quality Management in Health Services—May 21-22; and Short Course in Hospital Financial Management—May 21-25. All courses will be held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the College of Public Health. For inquiries, call up Ester Curry or Ofelia Gatpo at 523-2997 or fax at 521-1394 or e-mail dhpa@cph.upm.edu.ph.

Nestlé hosts pediatricians

PEDIATRICIANS attending a postgraduate course recently visited the Nestlé Philippines factory in Lipa City at the invitation of the Infant Nutrition Department in cooperation with the Children's Medical Center and the General Hospital Inc. The pediatricians toured the Milo/Milks and Breakfast Cereals plant and viewed the new Junior Breakfast Cereals line.

101 practical ideas on bringing joy

BLENDING down-to-earth with the spiritual is the style here of author Charlotte Davis Kasal, Ph.D. Kasal is a psychologist, healer, feminist, Quaker and social justice activist who has led numerous lectures and workshops in the United States and abroad. In "Finding Joy," Kasal offers 101 practical ideas on bringing joy to lives and relationships. This enjoyable book is among the over 50,000 titles from international publishers at Page One. Located at the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell Center, Page One offers a variety of good reads for everyday life.

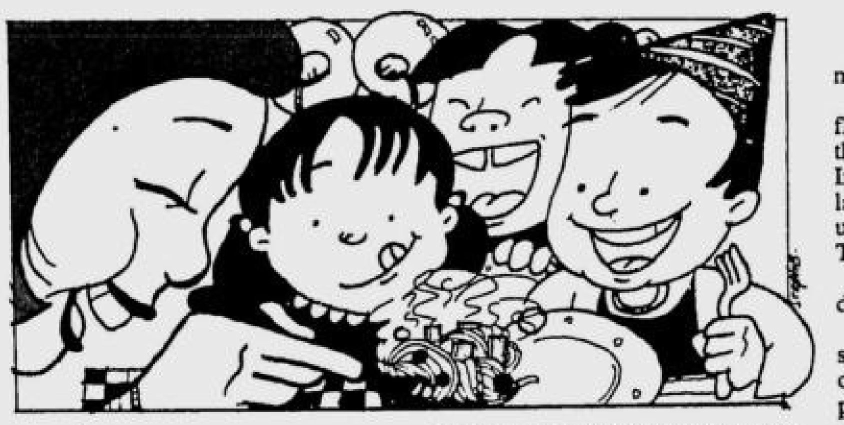
Occupational health course

THE UP Manila College of Public Health through the Department of Environment and Occupational Health will hold the 43rd postgraduate course in Occupation Health and Safety from April 17 to 25 (excluding weekend) from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The course venue is the CPH auditorium, 625 P. Gil St., Ermita, Manila. The course is open to physicians and other health professionals interested in occupational health. This course satisfies the Department of Labor and Employment's training requirement for company physicians and nurses. Course coordinators are Dr. Benjamin C. Vitasa and Prof, Victorio B. Molina. For inquiries, please call up Chit or Ruby at 526-5966 or 524-7102.

The case of the poisoned spaghetti

BY RAFAEL R. CASTILLO, M.D.

MEDICAL FILES



TIM simply loved spaghetti. He could eat spaghetti all-day and all-week long and would still ask for more, especially if it was prepared by his Aunt Belen. Tim never doubted that Aunt Belen's spaghetti was the best in the whole world. And so, for his forthcoming birthday party, he only requested one thing...the good old spaghetti prepared by his favorite aunt.

Although Belen was not feeling well on Tim's seventh birthday with a painful swelling of her right hand due to wounds she sustained in a recent accident, she could not turn down his request. She dutifully prepared the special spaghetti. Looking at him and his invited guests enjoy the tasty dish was enough compensation for the sick aunt and her nephew's happiness was a soothing balm to her painful extremity. Everyone went home happy and full.

Abdominal cramps

That same evening while Tim was still opening his gifts, he suddenly grimaced in pain pointing to his abdomen. He had to run to the bathroom to relieve himself but the abdominal cramps persisted. He then started to vomit. Tim's dad, who also ate the spaghetti, likewise experienced some abdominal cramps and one episode of watery bowel movement but it was a lot milder than what Tim was experiencing. The other members of the household who did not eat the spaghetti had no symptom.

Tim's mother tried to give him some first-aid medicine but this didn't help and after another two hours of repeated vomiting and watery bowel movement, Tim felt so weak already. His parents decided to bring him to the nearby hospital just outside their subdivision. At the emergency room, they saw two of Tim's friends who attended his birthday party. They were having the same problem, too.

Food poisoning

"It looks like you have food poisoning, and based on you and your friends' histories, the spaghetti you ate a few hours ago is the culprit," the doctor at the ER said. "Since your aunt who prepared the spaghetti currently has infected hand wounds, it is most likely a staphylococcal food poisoning."

Staphylococcal food poisoning is an acute syndrome of vomiting and diarrhea caused by eating food contaminated by the staphylococcal enterotoxin. It is the toxin and not the bacteria itself which causes the food poisoning. Most foods, prepared by infected handlers and left at room temperature, serve as a fertile medium where coagulate-positive staphylococci can grow and produce toxins.

Onset of symptoms is usually abrupt, 2 to 8 hours after ingesting the infected food. Vomiting, diarrhea and abdominal cramps are the most common symptoms although some may also experience fever and headache. The stools are watery but nonbloody since the toxin does not cause mucosal ulceration. This distinguishes it from other types of infectious diarrhea such as amebiasis.

Staphylococcal food poisoning causes marked weakness, prostration and even shock in rare instances due to dehydration. This entails some risk in the very young, in the elderly and chronically ill patients who are immuno-compromised.

Not serious

"It's not serious, doc; is it?" Tim's mother anxiously asked the doctor.

"We'll just have to support Tim with fluids and electrolytes until such time that his body has expelled all the toxins. In most cases, the symptoms do not last more than 12 hours and recovery is usually complete," the doctor reassured Tim and his worried parents.

"Do we need to confirm the diagnosis, doc?" Tim's father asked.

"It's usually not necessary unless the symptoms persist and we have to think of something else. The history and clinical presentation are strongly suggestive of staphylococcal food poisoning. Diagnostic confirmation, if necessary, can be shown by isolation of coagulase-positive staphylococci from the suspected food. It may also be isolated from the vomitus and stool," the doctor explained.

Tim and his friends only stayed overnight in the hospital and went home the following morning. His Aunt Belen was waiting in the house, so sorry about what had happened. Tim gave her a big hug and told her, "When your hand wounds are healed, please make me my favorite spaghetti dish again." And the doting aunt replied, "With all my love, I will!"

(Medical Files is based on the case histories of actual patients. Some data have been changed to cover the identity of the patient. Dr. Castillo is a past president of the Philippine Heart Association/Philippine College of Cardiology. Please mail comments or inquiries to Room 601 Medical Arts Center, Manila Doctors' Hospital, T. M. Kalaw, Manila or e-mail rrc@i-manila.com.ph.)

Affordable German-quality medicines available

WHAT is a generic medicine? A generic medicine contains the same active substance as, is essentially similar to; and is therefore interchangeable with, an original brand name medicinal product. A generic medicine is marketed in accordance with patent law and is identified either by its own brand name or by its internationally approved proprietary scientific name. Generic medicines are widely in demand in many countries and are increasingly prescribed by general practitioners. A generic medicine is of the same quality, efficacy and safety as the original brand name product and undergoes strict scrutiny before it is licensed and given market approval by the authorities. A generic medicine is usually considerably less expensive than the brand name original.

Quality par excellence

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Often a key element for a generic medicine is establishing bio-equivalency.

Bio-equivalency means that the product to be compared (i.e. the generic medicine and brand name original) produces essentially the same biological availability of the active substance in the body when given in the same quantity.

Ensuring that there is a reliable source for the active ingredients is also essential for meeting the requirements for bio-equivalency. Biogenerics, for example, and the high-priced original medicines are equally effective.

Benefits to society

In an era when increasing demands are being made on local health services, Biogenerics provides a major benefit to society as it ensures patient access to quality, safe and effective medicines while reducing the cost of pharmaceutical care.

Increasing the availability and range of high-quality yet affordable generic medicines on the Philippine market is essential for pharmaceutical care. Allowing effective competition between generic medicines and patent (expired) original brands is crucial for lowering pharmaceutical costs and stimulating innovation.

Biogenerics operates advanced research laboratories and production plants run by highly skilled personnel. In several countries, Biogenerics is a major provider of the medicines used in the healthcare market. In addition, it is one of the country's leading exporters of German-quality generic active ingredients, thus making a positive contribution to the overall pharmaceutical balance.

Committed to the future.

Biogenerics plays a vital consultative role in local healthcare systems. The German pharmaceutical group will continue to work with the government and various institutions to develop affordable solutions for pharmaceutical care and increase Biogenerics' role in the global generic medicines market.

In answer to the government's call to become sensitive to the increasing cost of living, Biogenerics recently made a price cutback on some of its major product lines, designed to help alleviate the problems of those who cannot afford high-priced, branded medicines. Selling its products at prices 30 to 60 percent less than their high-priced counterparts, Biogenerics is now even more accessible to the majority.

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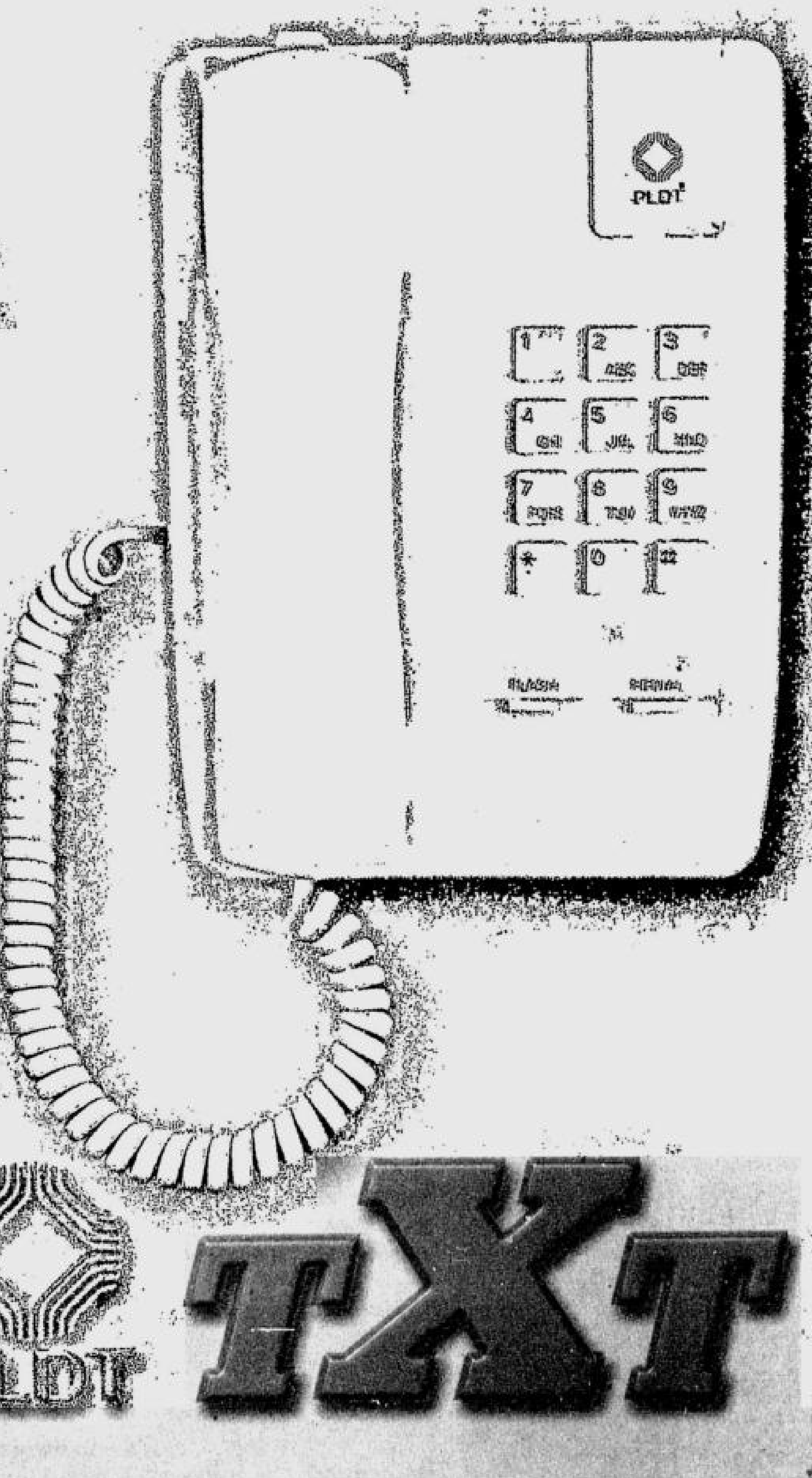

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NESTOR U. TORRE, Editor EDMUND L. SICAM, Associate Editor

Patrice Chereau's 'Intimacy' triumphs in Berlin

BY GEIR MOULSON

BERLIN—"Intimacy," French director Patrice Chereau's English-language drama of love and obsession set in London, won the Berlin Film Festival's prestigious Golden Bear award Sunday last week and landed the event's best actress award for Kerry Fox.

Minimalist school

The nine-member international jury, headed by former Fox Filmed Entertainment chief Bill Mechanic, largely overlooked Hollywood's offerings. It gave runner-up Silver Bear awards to Chinese director Wang Xiaoshuai's "Beijing Bicycle" and to Lone Scherfig's "Italian for Beginners," the latest movie to emerge from Denmark's minimalist "Dogma" school.

Among the four US entries in the 23-movie competition, Steven Soderbergh's "Traffic"—which had been a critics' favorite to win the Golden Bear—picked up the best actor accolade, which went to Benicio del Toro for his role as weary Tijuana police officer Javier Rodriguez.

The role already has brought del Toro a Golden Globe and an Oscar nomination best for supporting actor.

But Gus Van Sant's "Finding Forrester," Spike Lee's "Bamboozled" and Mike Nichols' "Wit" came away empty-handed.

Chereau is best known for 1994's "La Reine Margot," a story of Catholic persecution of Protestants in France during the 16th century.

Sexual relationship

"Intimacy," his first movie in English, is based on semi-autobiographical stories by British writer and director Hanif Kureishi. It stars Mark Rylance as Jay, who has recently left his wife and started a purely sexual relationship with amateur actress Claire (New Zealander Fox), whom he meets once a week. One Wednesday, Claire fails to turn up, leading Jay to become obsessed with her.

"Both of them are richer at the end of this affair, because they have experienced something special," Chereau said.

The movie received a mixed reaction in Berlin, largely because of its explicit sex scenes. Chereau acknowledged it had been difficult to find two actors willing to play the main parts, but insisted the scenes are "not shocking ~~for~~ me."

The movie, which also stars Marianne Faithfull, picked up the best European film award ahead of a strong field from the continent that included Lasse Hallstrom's Oscar best-picture nominee "Chocolat."

The award for best individual contribution went to Spain, with cinematographer Raul Perez Cubero winning for his black-and-white widescreen filming in "You're the One."

First feature

The lone South American entry—"La Cienaga" ("The Swamp"), the first feature from Argentine director Lucrecia Martel—took the award for best film debut.

Taiwan's Lin Cheng-Sheng was named best director for "Betelnut Beauty," and Angelica Lee Sinje was judged best young actress in a first major role for the film. Best young actors were Cui Lin and Li Bin for their parts in "Beijing Bicycle."

Kirk Douglas picked up an honorary Golden Bear for his lifetime's work at the festival Friday, but many of the stars—including his son Michael, star of "Traffic"—stayed away from the festival, now in its 51st year.

Sean Connery came to promote "Finding Forrester," and Juliette Binoche came for "Chocolat." Anthony Hopkins presented "Hannibal" and Kate Winslet traveled to Berlin with "Quills"—both films that screened out of competition.

Next year's festival will open under new direction, with long-time director Moritz de Hadeln stepping down this spring after his 22nd "Berlinale." *AP*

ACTORS Kerry Fox (left) and Mark Rylance in "Intimacy."

CHEREAU. His movie deals with love and obsession.

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Focus on working broadcast journalists

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WORKING broadcast journalists, as opposed to mere newsreaders, are heartened by recent developments that indicate that the TV networks are *finally* taking cognizance of what they have to offer to the industry.

All too often in the past, news anchors were lionized while the reporters who actually got and wrote the news were relegated to the sidelines, as the on-camera "stars" of the news department got all of the attention and praise from viewers who were ignorant of how TV news shows are produced.

One sign that things are changing for the better is ABC-5's decision to build a news-oriented program around its veteran broadcast journalist, Arlyn dela Cruz.

Unlike some newscast anchors who merely read the news reports with hackneyed, melodramatic unction, Dela Cruz handles everything—from writing and shooting, to editing and reporting—in the channel's new show, "Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment," which will air on ABC-5 every Monday starting March 5, at 10:30 p.m.

Dela Cruz reveals that she got her idea for the show's format when she attended and spoke at the first News World Conference on Global Terrorism in Berlin in 1995. One of the other speakers introduced the concept of a one-man news "team" with multiple skills.

This inspired Dela Cruz to come up with her "On Special Assignment," and it's a good thing that ABC-5 management have given the fresh concept the go signal. If it clicks with viewers, other channels should produce news shows along this line.

Not only is it relatively economical to do, but it also shifts the focus to the person who *really* counts on the TV news scene, the working broadcast journalist, instead of the faces and voices who merely read what others have written.

Even better, "Arlyn dela Cruz on Special Assignment" invites interested individuals to produce their own short documentaries or report on a topic of interest and concern. Before actually doing their reports, however, they should call Jessica Sales (tel. 419-2007) to arrange to discuss their concepts with the show's staff.

Goodman goes gay

Big, beefy John Goodman goes gay for the first time in his career in the new sitcom, "Normal, Ohio," which will start telecasting on Channel 5 next month.

He plays Butch, a former closet gay, who finally comes to terms with his sexuality despite the negative comments and reactions of his family and friends.

Greg Pitts plays Butch's son, Charlie, who hasn't forgiven his estranged father for leaving. Playing Butch's ex-wife Elizabeth is Mo Gaffney. Elizabeth is still in love with her gay husband but has found a new love in Danny (Charles Rocket).

Oson Bean plays the role of Butch's homophobic father, Bill. And Joely Fisher is Butch's sister, Pamela, a single mother who's afraid that her brother's sexual orientation is hereditary.

Joey's 'Two Lips on Tulips' promo

Joey @ 92.3 FM is giving away round-trip tickets for two to Amsterdam by way of its "Two Lips on Tulips" promotion.

Ongoing until Feb. 28, the promo requires you to listen to Joey's musical mix of pop jazz, R&B and retro tunes, and answer trivia questions on love, Amsterdam, Joey and KLM Dutch Airlines.

The first person to fax the correct answer to 882-JOEY will be the winner for the day, and will qualify for the grand draw on March 6. All 28 daily qualifiers will be invited to the grand draw at Italianni's Restaurant. The promo is presented by KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Holland Tulips and Italianni's.

DELA CRUZ. Hosts news-oriented program.

GOODMAN. Plays a homosexual in new sitcom.

'In the Beginning' on Hallmark

The Hallmark Entertainment Network (seen here on Home Cable Channel 53 and SkyCable Channel 38) premieres "In the Beginning" at 9:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25 (first part) and at 9:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 26 (second part).

The four-hour special presentation dramatizes the highlights of the Old Testament, with major roles played by the stellar likes of Jacqueline Bisset, Martin Landau, Geraldine Chaplin, Christopher Lee, Diana Rigg, Alan Bates, Steven Berkoff and Billy Campbell.

'Breakfast Papremyo' on 'Eat Bulaga'

The "Nescafe Classic Breakfast Papremyo" on GMA-7's noontime show "Eat Bulaga" is a weekly game show portion that offers big cash prizes.

To join, write your name, address, signature, telephone number and the promo title "Nescafe Classic Breakfast Papremyo" on the back of any empty Nescafe Classic refill pack, membrane foil or box top. Drop entries in boxes at the TAPE office, Doña Juana Rodriguez ave. corner Aurora blvd., QC.

Studio contestants will be predrawn every week. Their names will be announced on "Eat Bulaga" one week before they are to compete. Non-winning entries will automatically qualify for the grand draw.

Beginning on March 13, nine weekly prizes—a bedroom showcase or a kitchen showcase—will be raffled off. For the grand draw, nine trips for two to Paris, France will be given away.

The grand prize is a new house and lot package worth P2 million, which will be awarded on May 19.. Deadline for submission of entries to the grand draw is on May 12.

'Laki sa Laya' concert on Channel 2

At 8:30 p.m. today, Feb. 24, the "Laki sa Laya" live concert and street party will be telecast to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the first Edsa Revolution.

Guest performers include Sharon Cuneta, Judy Ann Santos, Jolina Magdangal, Jericho Rosales, Diether Ocampo, Robert Seña and Isay Alvarez. Rico Yan, Dominic Ochoa and Marvin Agustin host the "freedom special."

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Cesar Montano back after year-long hiatus

By Edmund L. Sicam

MORE than a year after Cesar Montano starred in Marilou Diaz Abaya's "Muro-Ami," the action star will finally be seen on the big screen in "Hostage." This is Star Cinema's first major release after the success of "Tanging Yaman." Despite his absence from moviescreens, Cesar continued to be in the public eye because of his wedding to actress Sunshine Cruz and his sitcom on ABS-CBN, "Kaya Ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis." He also finished an album, "Subok Lang" which turned gold, much to Cesar's delight.

Vengeful father

In "Hostage," Cesar plays a former military man who is out to avenge the death of his daughter. In the process, he holds a child hostage, not knowing that she is the daughter of the man he's after. When he does find out, the vengeful father learns to love the child as his own daughter. Roi Vinzon plays the villain, child star Moreen Guese is the young hostage. Buyani Agbayani provides the comic relief, while soap star Kristine Hermosa is Cesar's love interest.

Most posters for an action movie show the hero with a gun or posing with his sexy leading lady. For a change, the print ad for "Hostage" shows Cesar smoking a cigarette.

"*Sa* title *na lang, alam na ng tao* that this is an action movie, so *para maiba naman, walang baril akong hawak*," explains Cesar. What's ironic is that the actor doesn't smoke in real life.

Cesar stresses that this is part of his characterization and should not be interpreted as an endorsement of smoking. In fact, he has turned down several lucrative offers worth millions of pesos for him to do a cigarette commercial.

"As an actor, I do things which I may not necessarily do in real life but it's all part of the job," says Cesar.

Just like his grueling underwater scenes in "Muro-Ami." Although he won positive comments for his role, Cesar swears "*puwede ko sigurong gawin uli ang* 'Rizal' *kahit dalawang beses pa, pero* never again will I do another 'Muro-Ami."

Physical endurance

The reason is that the movie stretched his physical endurance. Most of the movie was shot underwater and his role required him to be swimming 90 percent of the time. He had to work at a depth of 40 feet 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. When *direk* Marilou finally shouted, "It's a wrap," Cesar says, "*Napaluhod ako. Tumulo ang luha ko. Nagpasalamat ako sa Diyos na buhay pa ako.*"

We commented that, since he has done "Rizal" on terra firma and "Muro-Ami" underwater, maybe he should try an action movie shot in the air, one involving skydivers. Cesar reacted favorably to the suggestion and said the possibility of doing such a movie has already been discussed.

In the meantime, he has several projects lined up this year which will make up for his absence last year. He's almost finished with "Alas Dose," where she co-stars with wife Sunshine Cruz and Christopher de Leon. Unfortunately, the schedules of the lead stars and director Erik Matti can't seem to jibe. Cesar is worried because Sunshine is in the family way and may not be able to do the rugged action scenes required of her.

Cesar is about to start work on "Mananabas," about rebel troops holed up in the mountains. He plays the lead and will also direct the movie from his own story. Then, he is set to reunite with his director on "Rizal" and "Muro-Ami," Marilou Diaz-Abaya. The movie promises to be another one of epic proportions as it will deal with the Muslims in Mindanao. Immediately after finishing "Muro-Ami," the award-winning director started researching for her new project and has immersed herself in the South to get materials for her movie.

Bankable star

This is Cesar's 18th year in the movies and he shows no sign of slowing down. He continues to be one of the few bankable action stars in the industry. When we asked him if this put a lot of pressure on him to come up with a box-office hit every time, he replied that the pressure was more on his coming up with a good movie. This means putting together various elements that would make a movie entertaining to the moviegoers. Cesar feels that a movie should not be driven by the lead star but by a well-written script.

In making the movie, Cesar and his manager, Norma Japitana, were also line producers, so they were responsible for keeping the balance between production values and staying within budget. That was a real test for the two, specially for Cesar, who is always full of ideas to make a scene more attractive to viewers.

The final scene, for instance, takes place in an ice plant. Originally planned for three shooting days at a budget of P 200,000 daily, the filming stretched for five days. The ice alone cost about P 40,000 and Norma recalls how the ice would melt everytime the powerful lights were turned on and she would see money instead of the ice melting! When it was all done, however, the extra budget was money well spent since it made the movie more exciting.

Struggling actor

We asked Cesar which he prefers, being a struggling actor or being on top of the heap, considering that when he's at the bottom, there's no place to go but up while as a superstar, he has no place to go but down. He paused then replied that he would rather be on top since he is in a position to try out the many ideas he has. Considering that he has made many good decisions since he reached the top, he should stay there for a long, long time.

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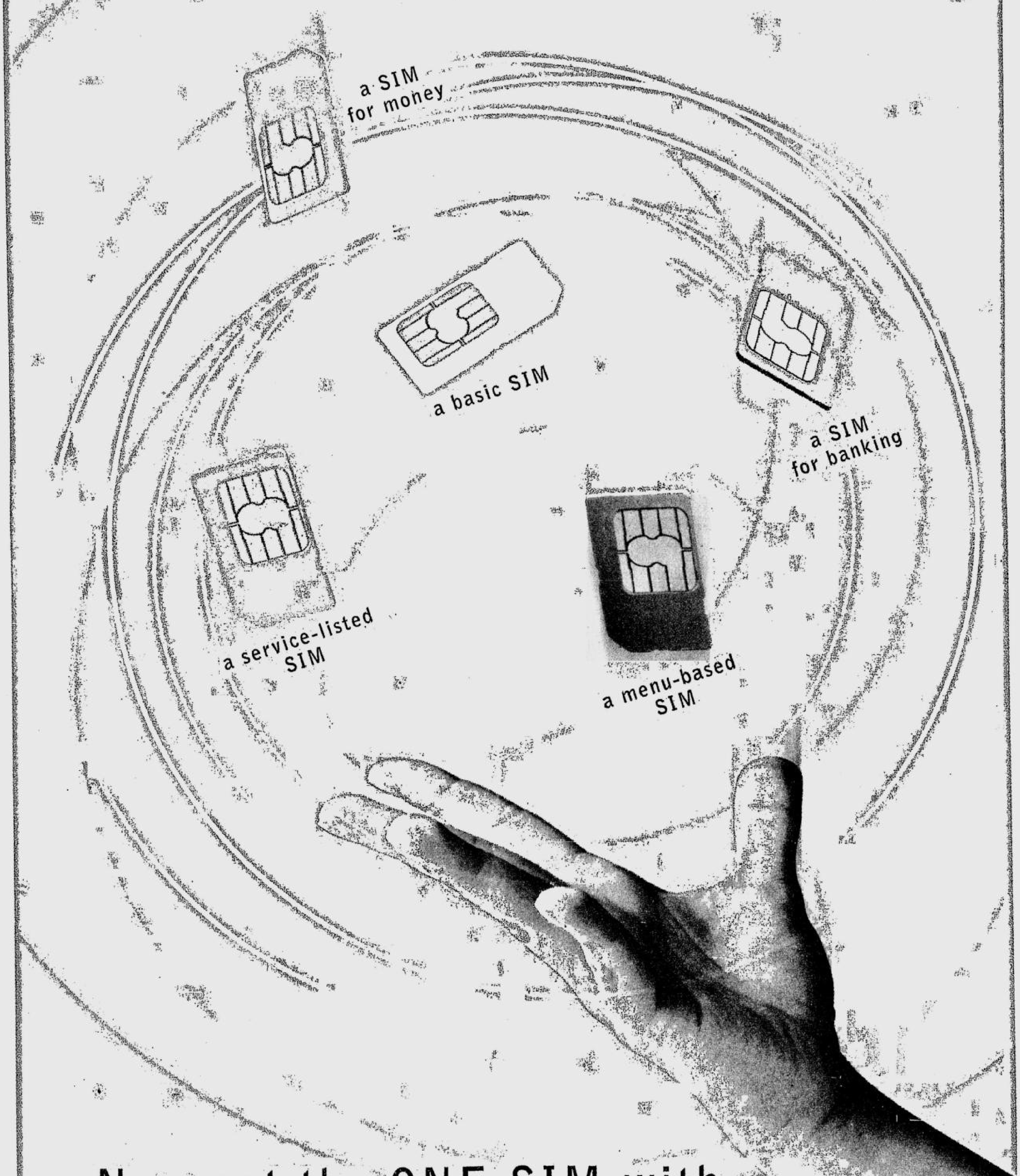
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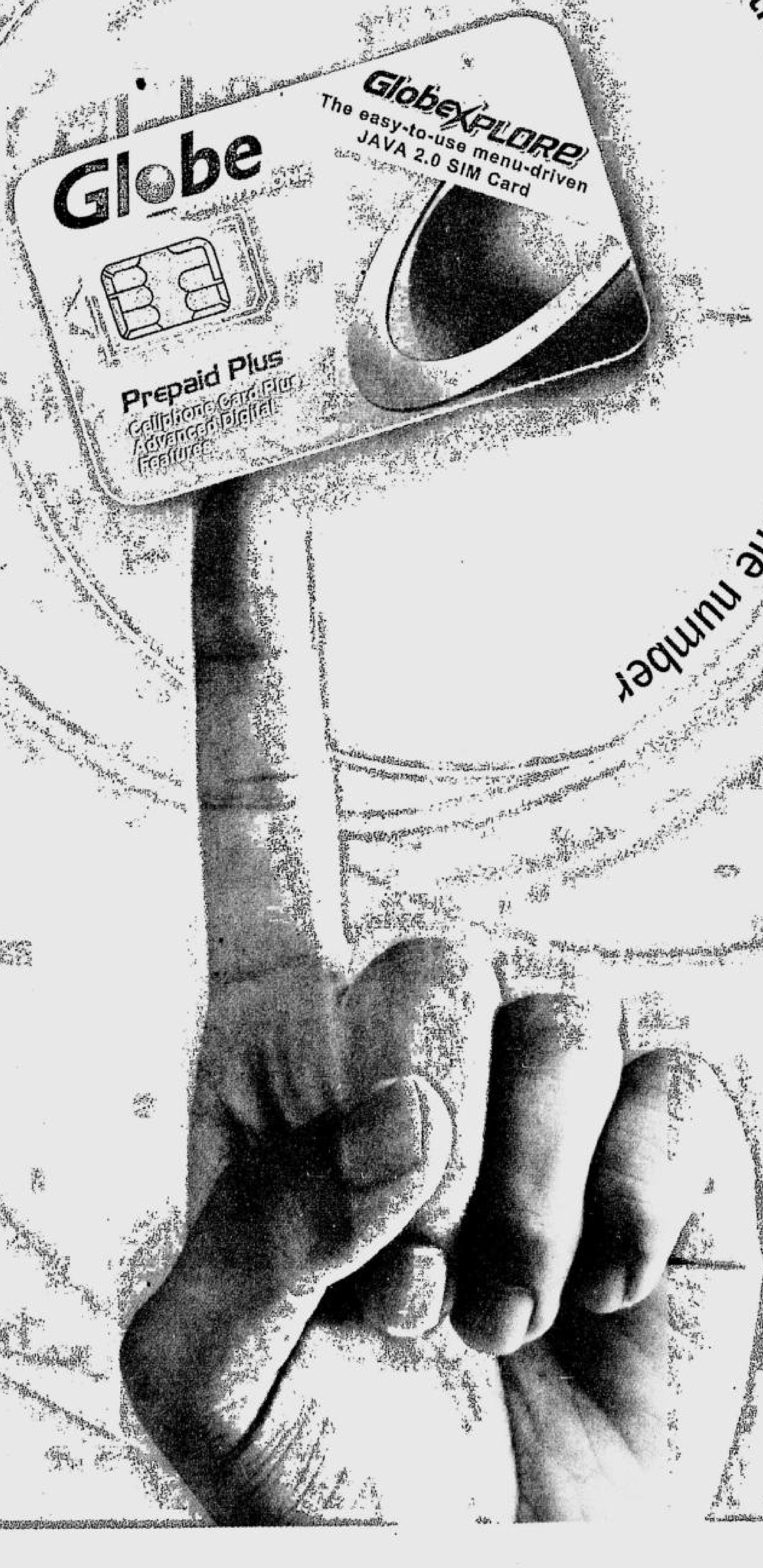
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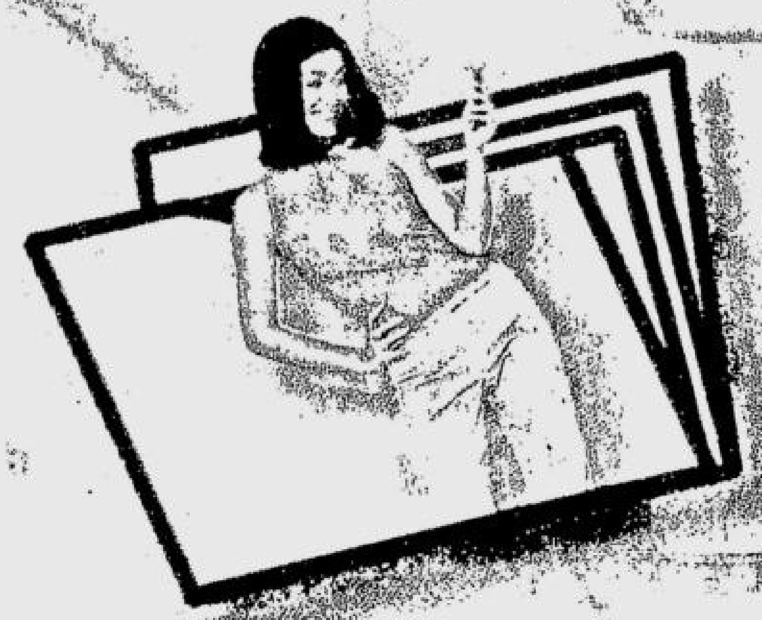

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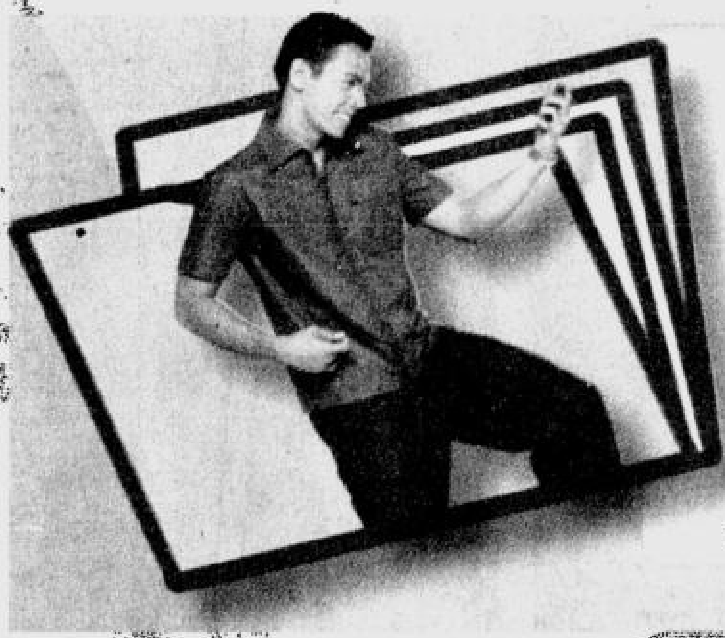

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Brad Pitt plays boxer with a knockout punch in 'Snatch'

RECENTLY named by US Magazine as the "Sexiest Man Alive" (for the second time, no less), Brad Pitt takes on the role of a carefree, scrawny Irish boxer who's got a knockout punch and more scams than tattoos up his sleeve, in Columbia Pictures' cool comedy "Snatch."

Rollicking ride

Director Guy Ritchie's highly anticipated follow-up to the smash $100-million hit "Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels," "Snatch" is a rollicking ride through London's gangster world, the bustling diamond district and a rowdy gypsy camp. Double-crossing, double bluffing and double-dealing abound as various parties pursue personal agendas—all of them illegal, some of them farcical and most of them destined to end in blood, pain and retribution. As plans go haywire, dogs, diamonds, boxers and assorted weaponry get swept up into a chaotic free-for-all.

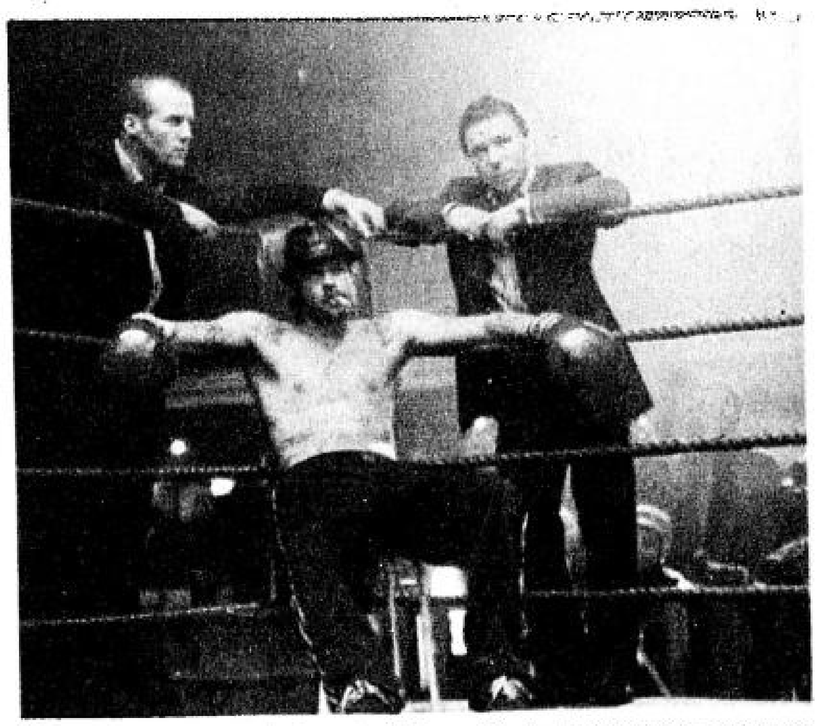
How did Brad Pitt end up in a quasi-independent film like "Snatch"? "Lock, Stock" attracted Pitt, who called Guy Ritchie immediately after the premiere in America and requested a meeting.

"They clicked straight away. Brad literally asked to be cast in Guy's next film," reveals producer Matthew Vaughn. "We were shocked at first, thinking 'God, there is nothing in it for him.' Then Guy came up with the idea to cast him as the tattooed, mush-mouthed Irish gypsy boxer named One Punch Mickey. He normally gets $20 million a film but agreed to a much smaller fee for 'Snatch'—and the same size trailer as everyone else!"

Refreshing

Pitt admits he found the lack of red carpet treatment refreshing. He was even whisked off to a travelers' campsite to spend time with real gypsies to "appreciate" their lifestyle.

Casting Pitt changed the direction of the film, since, obviously, this lean, muscled movie star wasn't exactly the "big, fat, sort of Greek-looking guy" Ritchie had originally envisioned as the bare-knuckled Mickey.



SCENE from "Snatch": From left,Tason Statham, Brad Pitt and Avan Ford.

"Somehow Brad [was] almost the antithesis of that, but ... perversely, it worked magically, just because it was so extreme the other way," says Ritchie.

The character of Mickey evolved even more when Pitt began toying with an incomprehensible dialect—which became one of several comic punchlines about "One Punch" Mickey. "Brad thought he would try it as a bit of a joke," says Ritchie, "and he and I both thought it was a funny idea. He was very extreme, and the more extreme he got, the funnier I thought it was on set, so one thing led to another."

Vaughn was initially worried about casting a Hollywood phenomenon. "The thing about 'Lock, Stock' was that everyone mucked in. We had a magical ingredient and I thought Brad's presence might throw all that away. But in fact, he added to it and understood exactly what we were doing," he says.

Top boy

"It's very flattering that a star such as Brad would be in our film. He was one of the lads right from the start, a top boy who doesn't mince around," says Ritchie. "Out of everyone, he was probably more of a gent than anyone—he made cups of tea for the punters on set."

How did Ritchie's stable of actors take to having a big American movie star in their midst? "Brad has an amazing ability to make you forget within five minutes that he is Brad Pitt the Big Movie Star and [realize that] he's just Brad Pitt, another human being," says co-star Jason Statham. "He's the most deflated ego I've ever met. He just mucked in with everybody. There was no 'Oh, there he is again, going back to his trailer."

Pitt has emerged as one of the most prominent actors of his generation, with starring roles in highly successful films such as "Fight Club," "Meet Joe Black," "Legends of the Fall," "Seven" and "Twelve Monkeys." He is still remembered fondly for his performance as the sexy hitchhiker in Ridley Scott's "Thelma & Louise" which brought worldwide acclaim.

SWITCHING CHANNELS

'Millionaire' ups top prize to P 2M for its second season

DE LEON. More spontaneity this time around?

IGNACIO. Bitten by the political bug.

By Edmund L. Sicam

IF you're wondering why IBC-13 has been airing replays of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?," that's because the first season is over. The good news is that the quiz show will resume its broadcast at 8 p.m. on March 5, 2001, the start of the second season. It will continue to air on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8 p.m. on IBC 13. Christopher de Leon returns as program host.

As an introduction to the new season, Viva TV will air two specials, "A Day in the Life," on Feb. 27 which features former winners, and a "Behind the Scenes" episode on the making of the local "Who Wants To Be A Millionaire" on March 1.

"WW2BAM" is the brainchild of David Briggs of the British production company, Celador. It has become a global success with local editions being aired in nearly 40 countries, including the United States, Canada, Australia, Holland, Russia, Malaysia, India, Denmark, South Africa and Japan.

Those who want to join the show should dial 1-908-1-000-000. Access to this number is open to PLDT landlines with National Direct Dialing features as well as Smart or Piltel phones. Calls are charged P10 per minute. Callers will be asked to answer a qualifying question.

From the many callers who give the correct answers, 100 are chosen. A representative of PLDT will call this group with another qualifying question. The 10 semifinalists with the answers closest to the correct one will make it to the studio taping. This means that, for every episode, the callers are pruned down to 100, from which the 10 studio contestants are chosen. Thus for one weeks' worth of tapings, 300 callers are chosen from the thousands who ring up the number.

That's a great source of income for the producer, considering that each call lasts an average of five minutes. We understand that Viva TV shares the revenues 50-50 with PLDT, which provides the service.

Contestants are provided free transportation. Provincial winners from Visayas and Mindanao are flown in or go by ship. Luzon qualifiers take the bus while those in Metro Manila are reimbursed for their taxi fare. All contestants, with one companion each, will be required to stay overnight at the Traders Hotel on Roxas blvd, the day before the taping.

This time, Viva TV has upped the top prize to P2 million. Considering the performance of last season's batch of contestants, we doubt very much if anyone will get this prize. Last season, no one won the top prize of P 1 million. The closest one contestant got was P400,000. He was Alfredo Pili from Laguna.

But then, you never know. Sometimes, it's a matter of the right question being asked. One needs to have a general orientation to be able to answer all the questions in this game show. You have to answer all 15 questions correctly to get the top prize.

We hope, though, that Christopher has gotten used to his hosting job because in the last season, he seemed uncomfortable in his seat. He was unable to provide excitement to the show. His style was lackluster and lacked spontaneity.

Comedians and politics

TV comedian Arnell Ignacio may not be very visible on the boob tube but he is in demand on the live concert circuit. Tonight, Arnell provides the comic touch to the post-Valentine show of Kuh Ledesma and Bituin Escalante at the Republic of Malate. He is also scheduled to go on a bar tour in March with the sexy female trio, Novia.

Arnell has also been bitten by the political bug. He is joining the many show biz personalities who are running for public office this May. The comedian is running for councilor in Quezon City. What are the chances of a funnyman in the electoral contest? Will the voters take him seriously enough to vote for him?

Some have succeeded in the political arena—Tito Sotto, the late Chiquito, Dennis Padilla, Lou Veloso and Cita Astals, to name a few. Action stars also seem to be able to get the vote—Lito Lapid, Bong Revilla, Rey Malonzo, Ramon Revilla, and of course, Joseph Estrada are prime examples.

Many are asking what right entertainers have to run for public office. Their defenders will say of course that seeking an elective post is the right of every qualified Filipino, whatever profession he's in. What galls non-show biz politicians is that entertainers have an unfair advantage because they enjoy high name recall even without campaigning. With a short campaign period, having a recognizable name is already a big advantage. Well, that's what democracy is all about!

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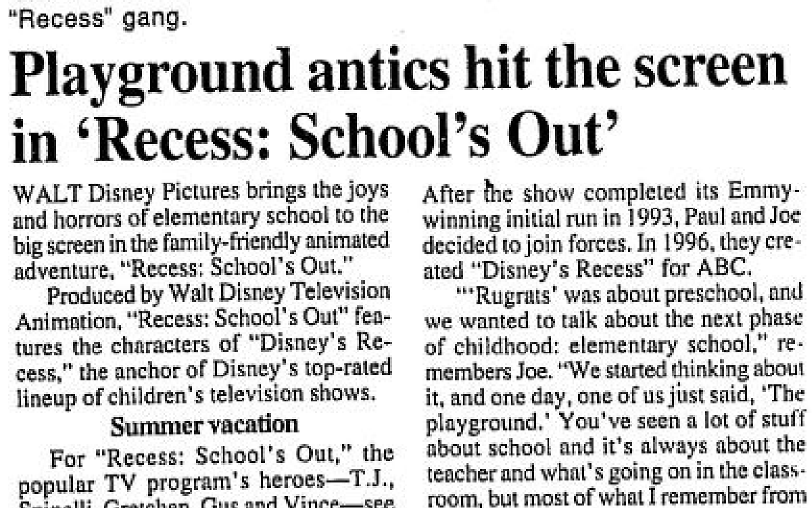


"RECESS: School's Out": T.J. Detweiler (center) and the rest of the "Recess" gang.

Playground antics hit the screen in 'Recess: School's Out'

WALT Disney Pictures brings the joys and horrors of elementary school to the big screen in the family-friendly animated adventure, "Recess: School's Out."

Produced by Walt Disney Television Animation, "Recess: School's Out" features the characters of "Disney's Recess," the anchor of Disney's top-rated lineup of children's television shows.

Summer vacation

For "Recess: School's Out," the popular TV program's heroes—T.J., Spinelli, Gretchen, Gus and Vince—see action for the first time on the big screen. School's out, and the gang of fourth-graders are looking forward to a long, enjoyable summer vacation.

For T.J. Detweiler, however, boredom quickly sets in with most of his friends going off to summer camp. Things change when he suddenly uncovers a scheme to do away with summer vacation!

Former principal Dr. Benedict, who once tried to eliminate recess from the school day, now plans to use a laser beam to alter the weather and create permanent winter. It sure would be tough to have to go to school year-round, so T.J. calls in all his friends for help. Just when the kids appear to be facing their final test of strength against the mad principal, the faculty joins together in order to help save summer vacation.

Created by Paul Germain and Joe Ansolabehere, "Disney's Recess" premiered in 1997 and quickly became the most popular half-hour in the lineup.

Initial run

Paul Germain and Joe Ansolabehere first met in film school at UCLA, where Joe earned his Master's of Arts degree. A few years later, Paul and Joe worked together on Nickelodeon's hit animated series "Rugrats," which Paul co-created with Arlene Klasky and Gabor Csupo. After the show completed its Emmy-winning initial run in 1993, Paul and Joe decided to join forces. In 1996, they created "Disney's Recess" for ABC.

"'Rugrats' was about preschool, and we wanted to talk about the next phase of childhood: elementary school," remembers Joe. "We started thinking about it, and one day, one of us just said, 'The playground.' You've seen a lot of stuff about school and it's always about the teacher and what's going on in the classroom, but most of what I remember from those days happened out on the playground at recess.

According to "Recess" creators Paul and Joe, the secret to making a good show for kids is "to do the same thing you'd do for adults: tell great stories, and *never* talk down to them."

Magic realism

Paul and Joe have tried to include in the "Recess" world a sense of "magical realism"—reality, but with a little something extra. "The style of the show has always been realistic," says Paul. "No one picks up a stick of dynamite and has it blow up in their hands, and their face gets sooty. If a kid falls out of a tree, he's going to break his leg on this show.

"On the other hand, we've tried to infuse the series with some 'magical' influences that would take this realistic world and make it just a little bit fantastic. We tried to make the playground, like we remembered it as kids—you know, everyone remembers that one kid who would come onto the playground, kick the ball, and it would seem like it was going into the stratosphere.

"Well, in 'Recess,' when the kid kicks the ball, we cut to space and show the ball knocking an antenna off the space shuttle. In other words, the kid *literally* kicks the ball into the stratosphere."

Top 20 Oscar Best Picture awardees cited

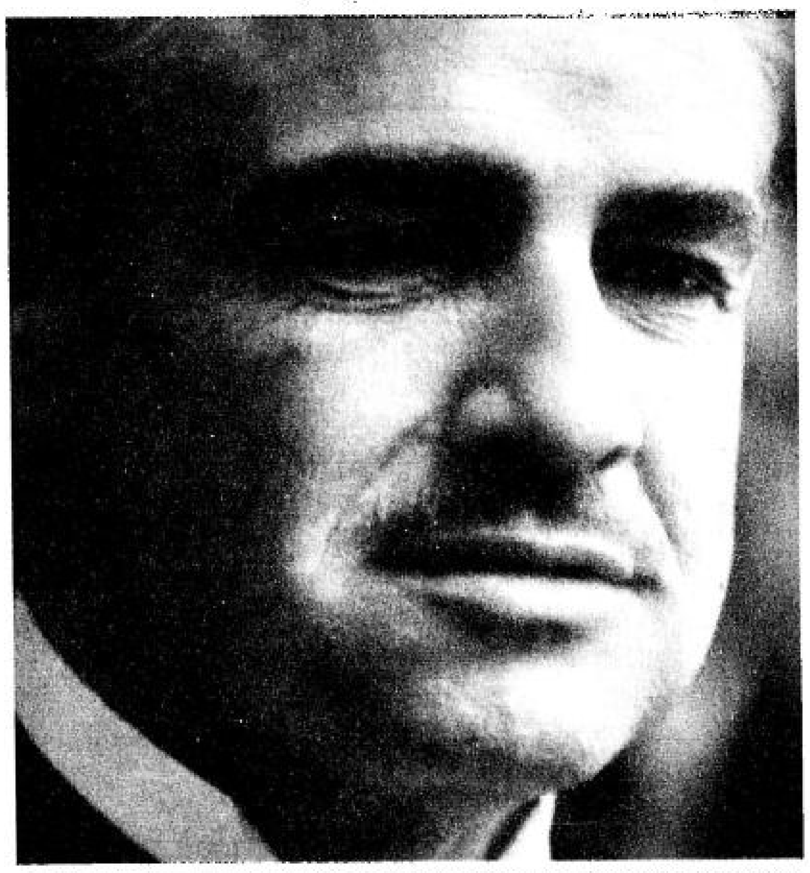
By Nestor U. Torre

EVERY year, the US Academy Awards come up with their Best Picture winner. Recently, Entertainment Weekly magazine asked the intriguing question: "If you were to compare all 72 Best Pictures to date, which would be deemed the 'best of the best' on point of artistic merit?" Even better, it answered its own question. See if you agree:

Film buffs

After careful consideration, the magazine's resident critics and film buffs chose Francis Ford Coppola's "The Godfather" (1972) as THE *primus inter pares* of the whole bunch of exceptional movies. They admired the Mob-family saga for its dark vision, moral weight, consistency and "operatic" emotional scale.

In second place is Joseph L. Mankieweiz's "All About Eve" (1950), starring Better Davis and Anne Baxter. The movie is cited for its witty, stylish tale of sophisticates cutting each other down, coolly smiling all the while.



MARLON Brando in "The Godfather," chosen top Oscar Best Picture awardee of all time.

Impressively, Coppola's "The Godfather, Part 2" (1974) ends up in third place because it digs even deeper into the first "Godfather" film's important themes.

Storm center

This time around, it's Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) who's in the storm center of the movie's conflicts, which have a power that calls to mind the tragedies of William Shakespeare.

Fourth, David Lean's epic, "Lawrence of Arabia" (1962), with Peter O'Toole making a smashing film debut as the charismatic yet deeply troubled title character.

Fifth, Elia Kazan's "On the Waterfront" (1954), a gangster movie starring Marlon Brando as a misfit who redeems himself in the end.

Sixth, Michael Curtiz's "Casablanca" (1943), the cinematic icon about love (between Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart) in a time of war.

Gem

Seventh, Victor Fleming's "Gone with the Wind" (1939), another gem of the cinema that strives to dramatize the US Civil War's consequences in civilians' lives. The film is further illuminated by the incandescent performance of Vivien Leigh as Scarlet O'Hara.

Eighth, William Wyler's "The Best Years of Our Lives" (1946), about three war veterans facing the uncertainties of civilian life. Starring Frederic March and Dana Andrews.

Inspiring story

Ninth, Steven Spielberg's "Schindler's List" (1993), cited for its inspiring story of a businessman (Liam Neeson) who risked his life to save hundreds of Jews from being exterminated in German concentration camps during the Second World War.

Tenth, Billy Wilder's "The Apartment" (1960), starring Jack Lemmon as a junior executive whose apartment is used as a romantic rendezvous by some of his jaded and opportunistic office mates.

It's instructive to note that most of the movies in the top 10 are "old" productions from the '30s to the '70s, with only "Schindler's List" representing the 1990s. This says a lot about the way that more recent movies have tended to be less significant than the films of yore.

Popular themes

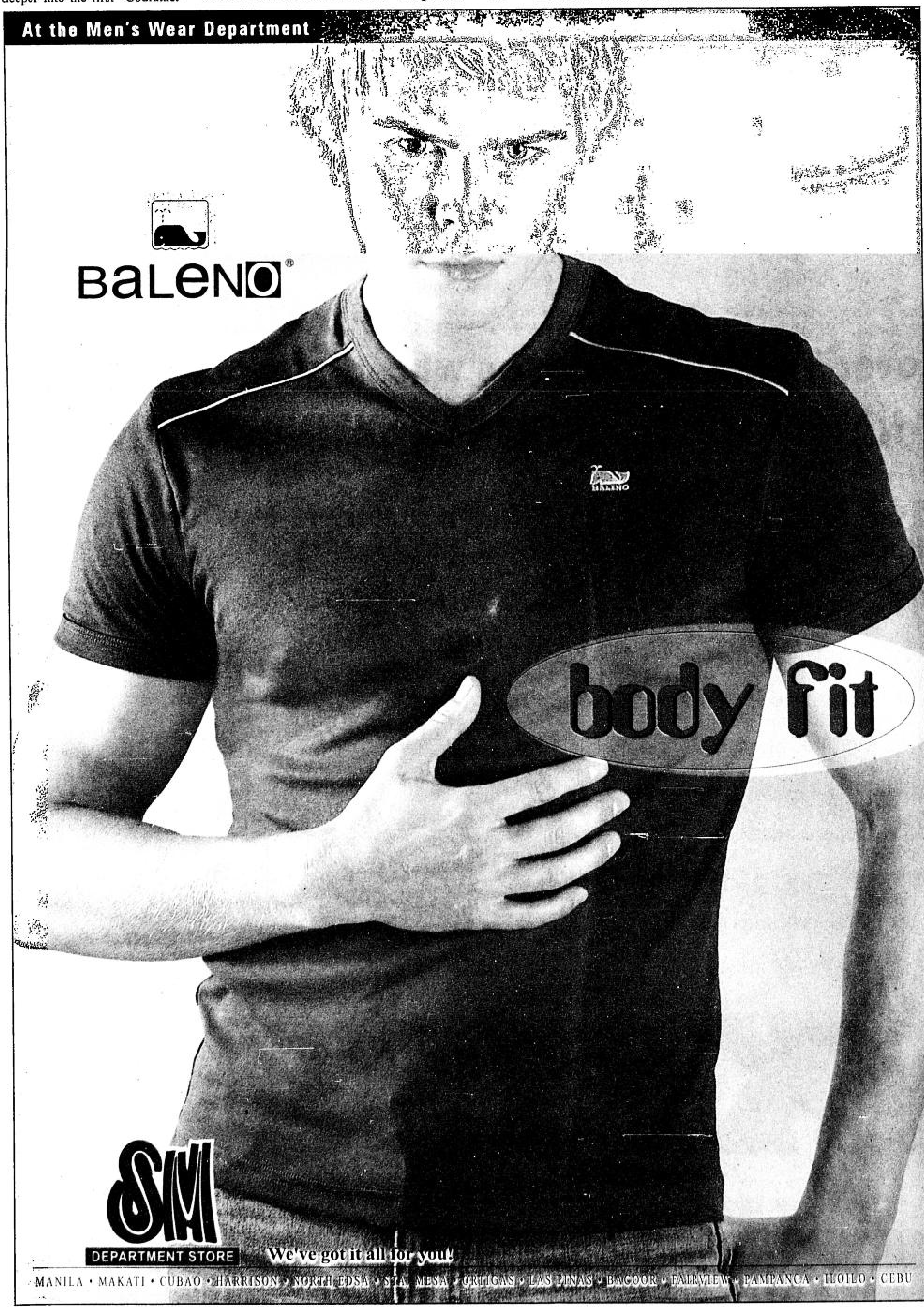
Instead, they have concentrated on popular themes and technological innovations, with artistically debilitating results.

Do you agree with these choices? For our part, we feel that "All About Eve" and "The Apartment" have been ranked too high, and they could more fairly be replaced by "How Green Was My Valley" (John Ford, 1941), "From Here to Eternity" (Fred Zinnemann, 1953) or "An American in Paris" (Vicente Minnelli, 1951).

Significance

In any case, the magazine continues to list the remaining movies in descending order of significance and artistic worth: 11. David Lean's "The Bridge on the River Kwai," 1957. 12. Woody Allen's "Annie Hall," 1977. 13. Milos Forman's "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest," 1975. 14. Alfred Hitchcock's "Rebecca," 1940. 15. Billy Wilder's "The Lost Weekend," 1945. 16. Frank Capra's "It Happened One Night," 1934. 17. John Schlesinger's "Midnight Cowboy," 1969. 18. Clint Eastwood's "Unforgiven," 1992. 19. Jonathan Demme's "The Silence of the Lambs," 1991. 20. Oliver Stone's "Platoon," 1986.

This expanded list's most consistently outstanding filmmakers are David Lean, Francis Ford Coppola and Billy Wilder, with two films apiece in the top 20.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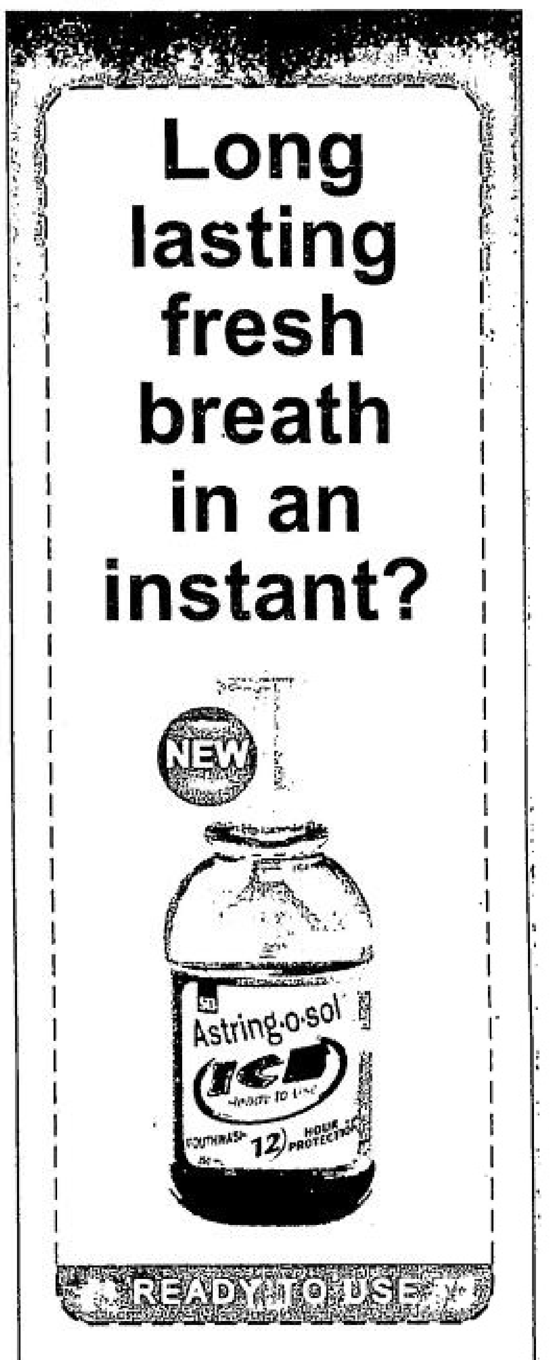

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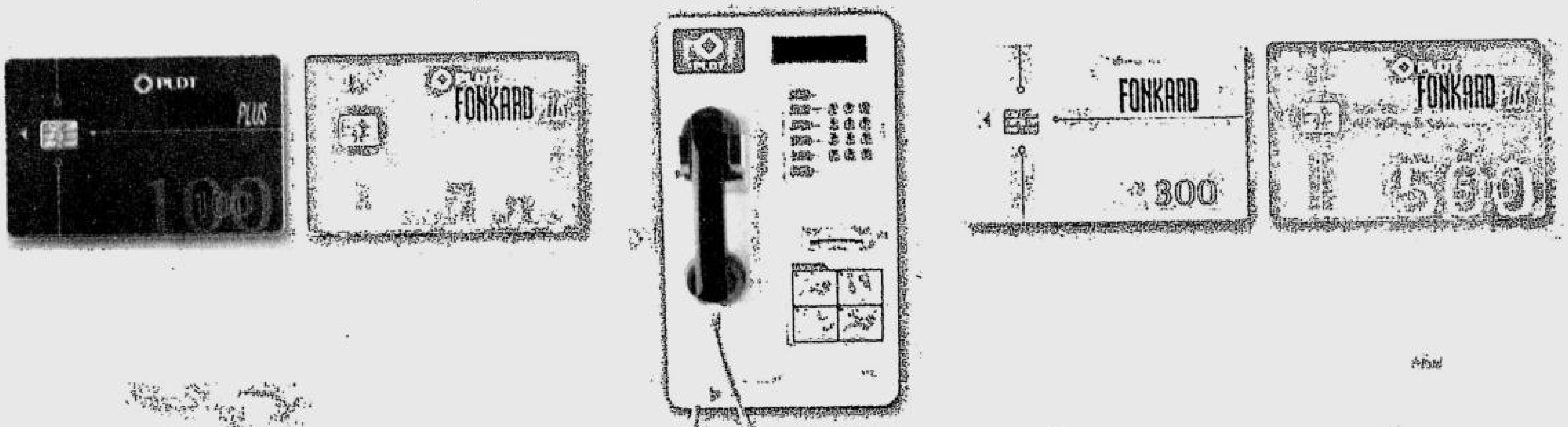

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Saturday SPECIAL

Eminem stirs controversy on music industry's big night

By Nekesa Mumbi Moody

LOS ANGELES—Eminem, the rapper whose angry lyrics entangled the Grammy ceremonies in controversy, picked up three awards even before appearing on stage to sing with Elton John.

Protesters

The irreverent rapper—the target of 100 protesters outside the awards show Wednesday night—was honored for best solo rap performance, best rap album and best rap performance by a duo or group for his collaboration with his mentor and producer, Dr. Dre.

"I want to thank everybody who could look past the controversy and see the album for what it was—and for what it wasn't," he said after picking up his third award.

The Irish rockers U2 also won three awards: record of the year, song of the year and best rock performance, all for "Beautiful Day."

"On a personal level, this century has been going so well for us," said U2's The Edge.

"I think Macy Gray should really have some of this," said Bono after the group bested Gray's "I Try" for record of the year. "It's a very unusual emotion I'm feeling right now—humility."

Steely Dan, D'Angelo, Destiny's Child and Faith Hill won two Grammys apiece.

First disc

Steely Dan, who will be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next month, had never won a Grammy until Wednesday. The veteran rock-

EMINEM/p.D2

EMINEM, center, accepts the Grammy for best rap album while Jimmy Smits and Toni Braxton look on.

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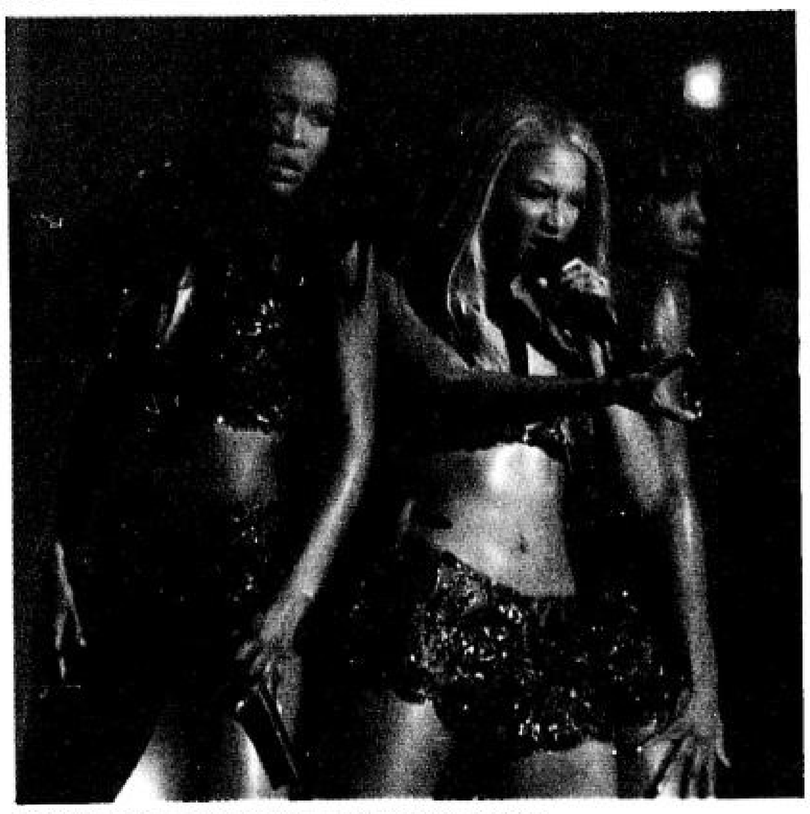


DESTINY'S Child performs at the Grammys.

Eminem stirs controversy on music industry's big night

(From page D1)

ers won best pop album for their first disc in 19 years and won best pop vocal performance by a group for "Cousin Dupree."

"We've been around a long time," said Steely Dan's Donald Fagen. "It's nice to get one of these."

Southern soul singer Shelby Lynne won best new artist, acknowledging it took ''13 years and six albums to get here.''

D'Angelo's "Voodoo" won best R&B album and his song, "Untitled (How Does It Feel)" won best male R&B vocal performance. Destiny's Child's "Say My Name" won best R&B song and best R&B performance by a group.

Two of the fired members of Destiny's Child could have appeared on stage with the now-trio when they picked up their two Grammys, but did not. Lead singer Beyonce Knowles briefly alluded to the group's lineup drama when she thanked replacement Michelle Williams "for blessing Destiny's Child."

Hill's "Breathe" won best country vocal performance and her duet with her husband, Tim McGraw, won best country collaboration with vocals.

Rape fantsy

Eminem's nomination for album of the year for "The Marshall Mathers LP" has drawn the most controversy. The album, which has sold nearly 8 million copies, denigrates homosexuals, describes the murder of his wife and has a rape fantasy involving Eminem's mother.

Elton John came under intense criticism from gay activists for agreeing to perform with the 28-year-old Detroit rapper during the Grammy show.

Their duet, on Eminem's song "Stan," was the most anticipated performance in a show that also featured Madonna, Paul Simon, Destiny's Child and Macy Gray.

MADONNA lost out in the best female pop vocal category to Macy Gray.

The controversy, and diverse group of nominees, promised to drive up viewership for the annual awards show.

Other album of the year nominees were "Midnite Vultures," by Beck; "Kid A," by Radiohead; "You're the One," by Simon; and "Two Against Nature," by Steely Dan.

Madonna lost out in the best female pop vocal Grammy; the award went to Gray for "I Try."

Grammy host Jon Stewart provided humorous moments, making racy jokes about the Eminem controversy. One of the milder wisecracks: "I don't know what all the controversy is about. I've met him backstage and he's really gay—he's about the gayest guy you'd ever meet."

Lost scarf

Jennifer Lopez, who provided the Grammys most memorable moment last year with her navel-plunging Versace dress, was not present, but the spirit of her dress was there with Toni Braxton's eye-popping silver Richard Tyler frock. Stewart joked that Braxton was wearing his lost scarf.

There are 100 Grammy categories this year. Unlike last year, when Santana walked away with a record-tying eight awards, no artist or group appeared headed for a sweep.

Dr. Dre, and the R&B trio Destiny's Child led all nominations with five each. Dr. Dre picked up the honor for best producer in the pre-telecast ceremony.

Destiny's Child could walk away with the night's other top honor, record of the year, for the hit "Say My Name." Their competition was Gray's "I'll Try"; 'N Sync's "Bye Bye Bye"; U2's "Beautiful Day"; and "Music" by Madonna, who has never won a Grammy in a major category.

Over the past several years, the Grammys—criticized for ignoring artists in their time—have tried to bring the nominations in tune with critical tastes. Eminem's album won mostly raves from critics.

Swipe

The rapper himself has taken a swipe at the awards ceremony.

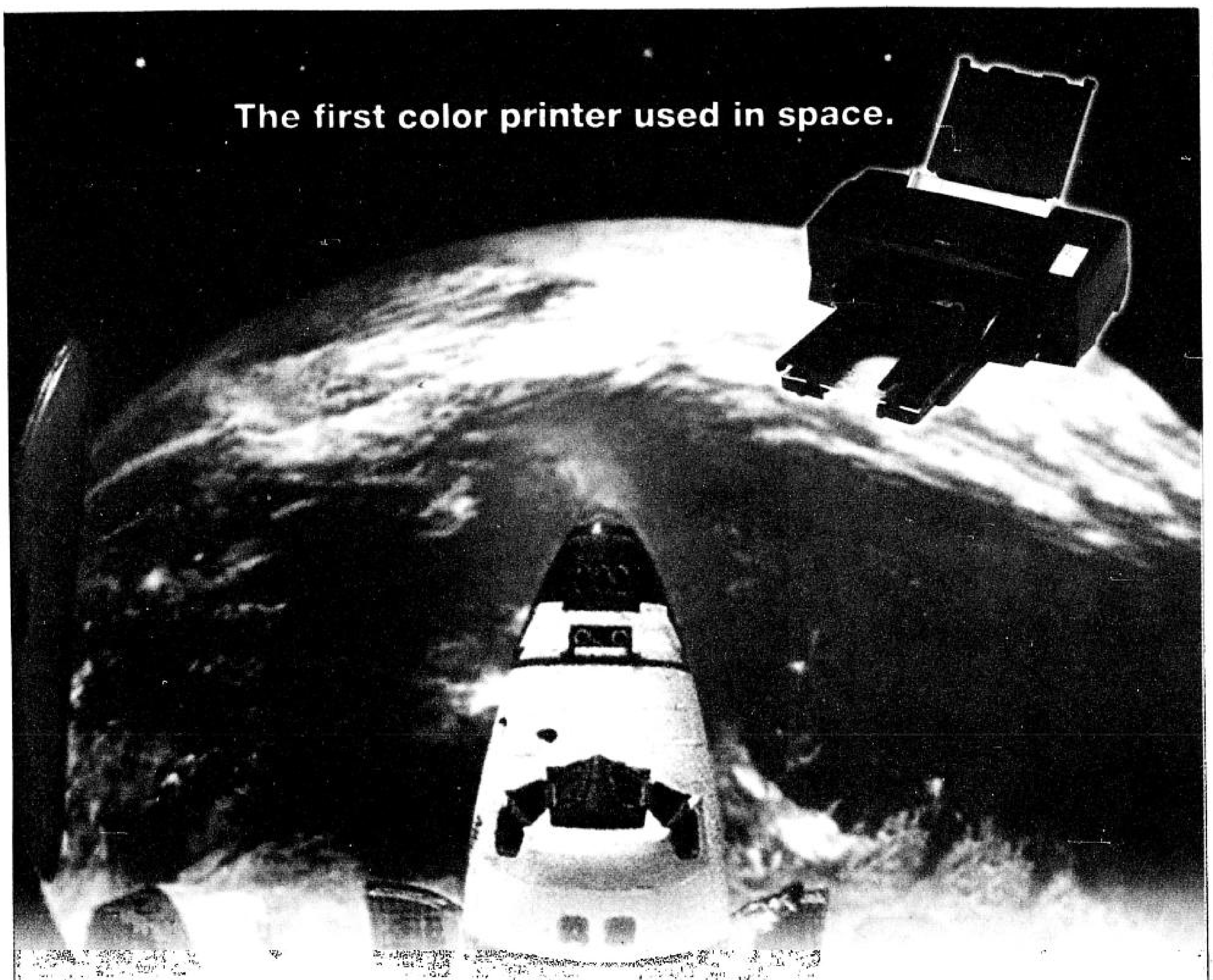
"You think I give a damn about a Grammy?/ Half of you critics can't even stomach, let alone stand me," he says in "The Real Slim Shady."

"The bottom line is that this is the ultimate test of Grammy hipness," said Tom O'Neil, author of the book "The Grammys."

The academy and many musicians who defended Eminem 's nominations cited his right to free expression.

The strongest campaign against him was organized by the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, which protested against him outside the Staples Center, site of the Grammy awards. Other protesters included members of the National Organization for Women. *AP*

BONO, right, of the pop band U2 sings "Beautiful Day."



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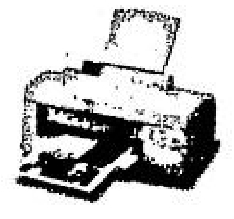

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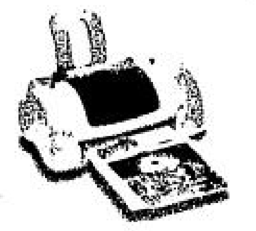

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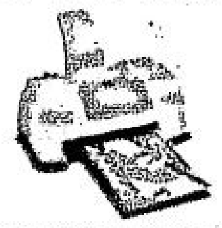

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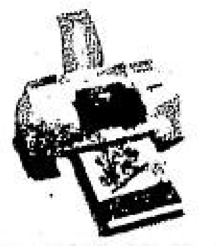

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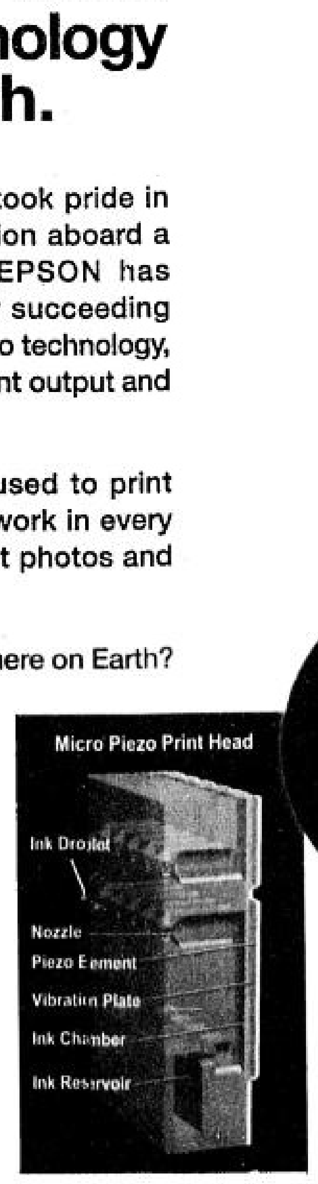

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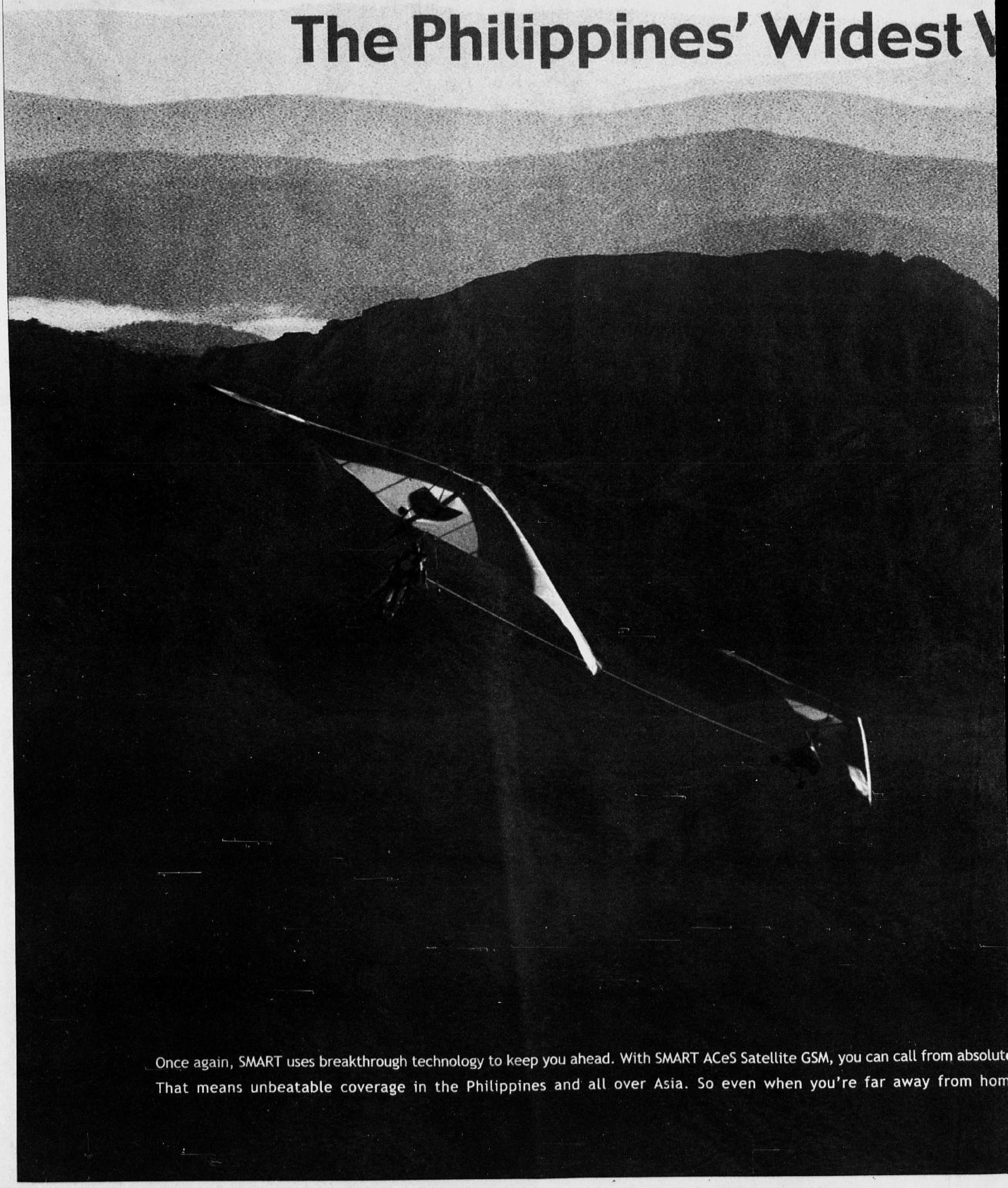

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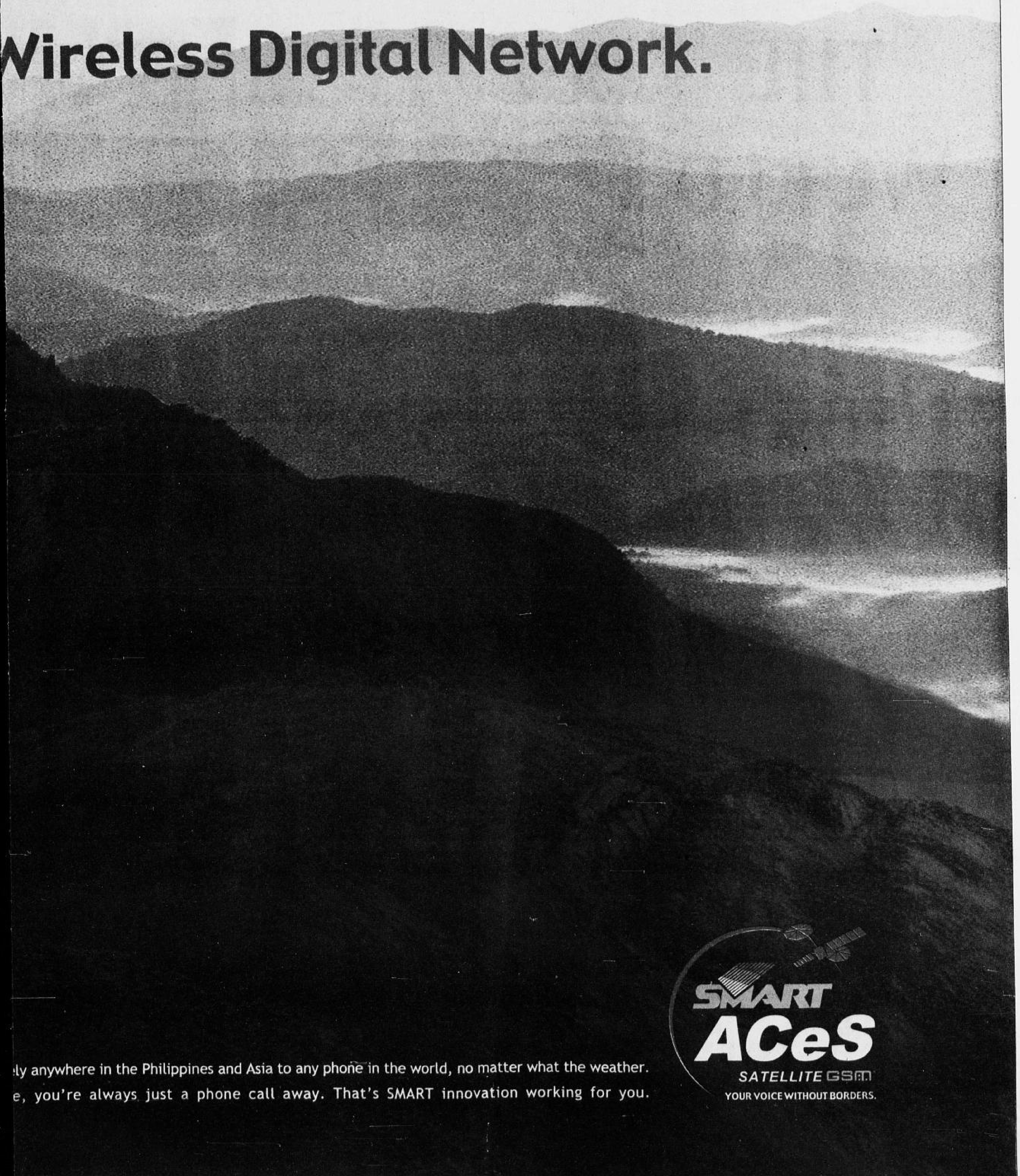

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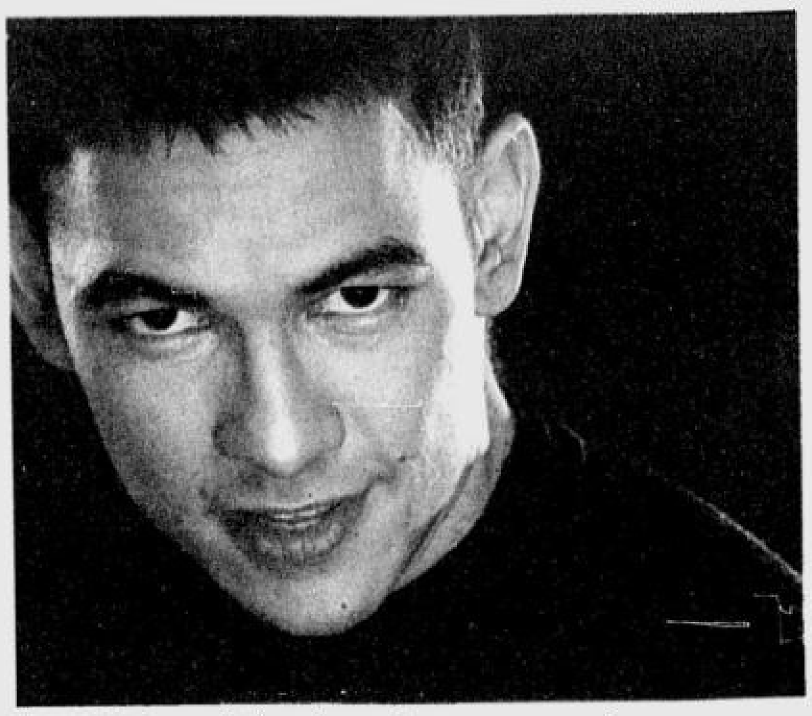
Gary Valenciano scores double platinum with 'Revive'

By Remy M. Umerez



GARY V. Songs that revive souls.

IT IS hard to imagine Gary Valenciano leaving Universal Records. There is no way that Gary would abandon his lady producer Bella Tan whose genuine friendship and support Gary has treasured for more than a decade.

Creativity

He puts it this way: "*Iba na ang may matagal na pinagsamahan*. Universal believes in me and my talent. She respects my ideas. She allows my creativity to function everytime we conceptualize a project. Most importantly, she understands the artist in me."

No other singer of Gary's caliber has achieved so much. His recent album "Revive," released only last December, has scored double platinum. and with the extensive promo Gary will be doing for the next three months, the quintuple mark is not a far fetched dream.

> 'Whenever I do concerts, I want to go beyond entertaining my audience. I want my songs to inspire people and hopefully make them better individuals'

"Whenever I do concerts, I want to go beyond entertaining my audience. I want my songs to inspire people and hopefully make them better individuals," Gary says.

"Revive" features 15 cuts best described as truly inspirational. The first and second singles, "I Will Be Here" and "Love Is The Answer," have remained in the Top 10 listings.

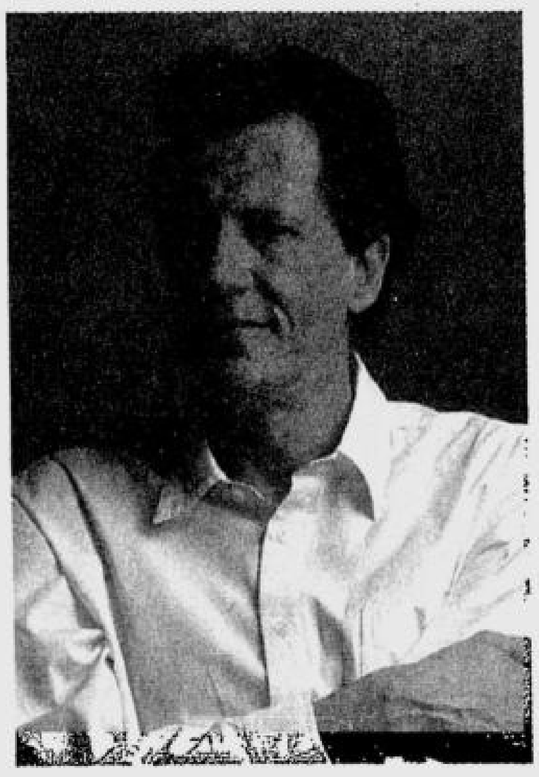
Producer

The producer of these singles is South Border's Jay Durias, who was accused of stealing his own recording equipment and sadly is in jail without bail. Jay also did the back-up vocals on all the songs, including "People Need the Lord."

Universal Records decided to use Jay's arrangement and production of "Love Is the Answer" as the carrier cut of the album.

Lately, Gary has turned down some lucrative offers in lieu of the project that will benefit his church, the Word Community Fellowship.

Gary sums up his album: "I believe that music has a way of piercing the thickest walls that have surrounded our hearts. I pray that this selection won't simply be remembered as songs that try to revive memories of past decades, but songs that revive souls as well."



RUSH. Plays the Marquis de Sade in "Quills."

VIP gears up for another banner year with Fox

"THE Legend of Bagger Vance" got Viva International Pictures off to another banner year with its line up of motion pictures from Twentieth Century Fox. Starring Matt Damon, Will Smith and Charlize Theron.

Spiritual journey

"Bagger Vance" is a spiritual journey through the world of golf that tells the story of a once-proud man's return to love, life and glory and the extraordinary friend and caddy who helps along the way.

Directed by the Academy award winner Robert Redford, the movie is considered a must-see drama with its wonderful direction and extraordinarily moving performances from some of today's most loved and respected young stars.

The pothead comedy "Dude, Where's My Car?" starred Ashton Kutcher of the hit TV series "That '70s Show" and Seann William Scott of "An American Pie" and "Road Trip" as two dudes who after a night of partying, realized that they had no idea where they parked the car. Retracing their steps they started to remember the zany events that happened the night before.

The other potential blockbusters in the Fox line-up are the following: "Woman on Top," a romantic and comedic fable set against seductive Brazilian music and magic, about a beautiful Brazilian woman who travels to San Francisco to become a successful television chef.

Lifelong battle

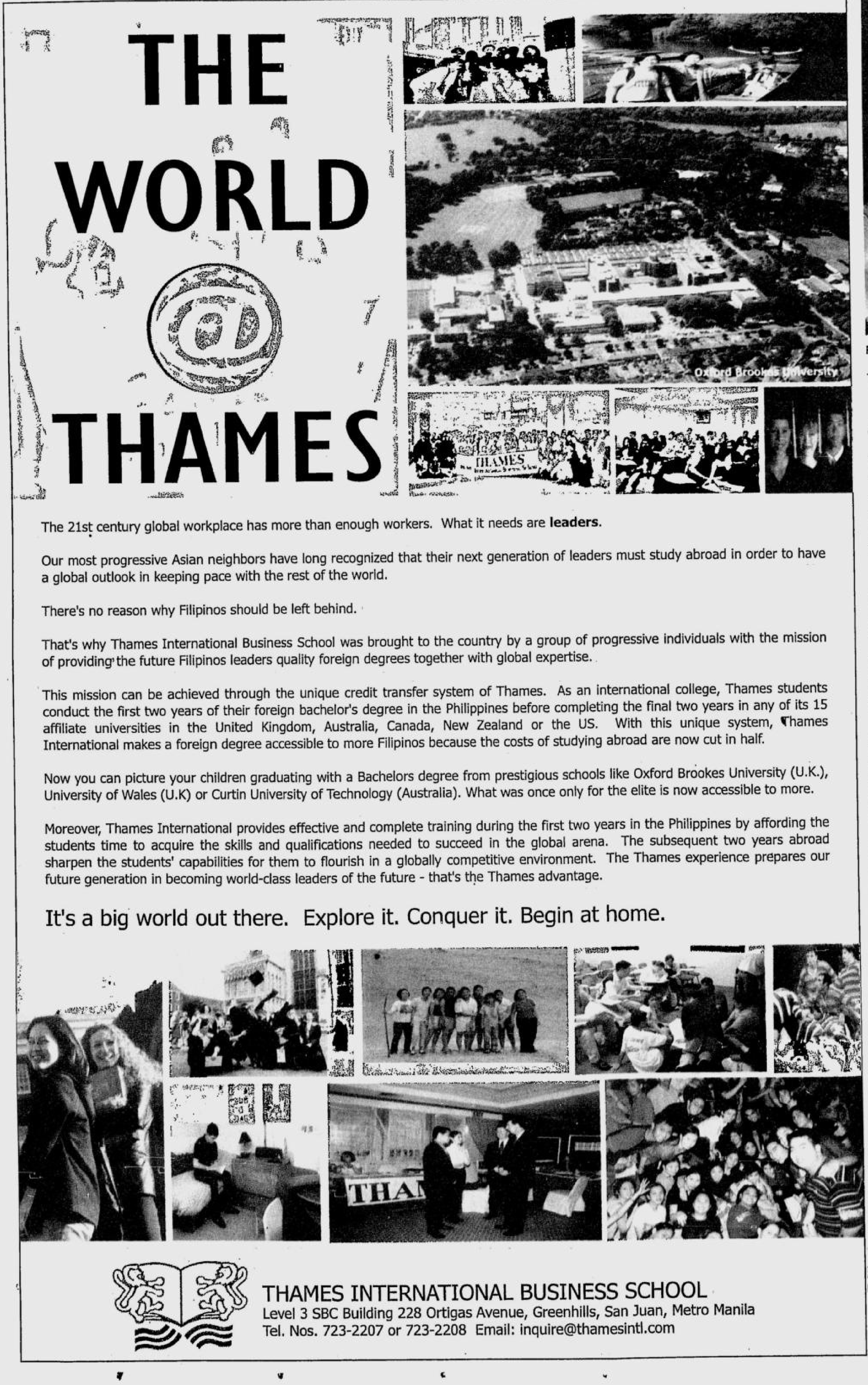
In her new life, she is forced to choose between her macho ex-husband, her new fame and her lifelong battle with motion sickness and her need to always be on top. Directed by Fina Torres, it stars the Spanish award-winning actress and beauty Penelope Cruz with Murilo Benicio, Harold Perrineau, Jr., and Mark Feuerstein.

"Tigerland," directed by Joel Schumacher, among whose recent works were "Flawless" and "Eight Millimeter." This is about how a group of draftees are saved from fighting in Vietnam when an irreverent soldier enters their ranks and sacrifices his own chance to go home by tricking the military into discharging them. It stars Clifton Collins, Jr., Matthew Davis, Colin Farrell, Thomas Guiry, Russel Richardson and Shea Whigham.

"Monkeybone," a comedy that revolves around a cartoonist, played by Brendan Fraser and the incredible fantasy world that takes place in his mind after he slips into a coma.

Trapped in this outrageous land nestled between life and death, he must somehow find the means to return to reality. This is the first feature film to combine stop-motion animator pioneer Henry Selick, "Monkeybone" also stars Briget Fonda, Chris Kattan, Giancarlo Esposito, Rose McGowan and Whoopi Goldberg.

VIP/P. D7



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'Those brave Filipinos' on pilgrimage in the Holy Land

By Nestor U. Torre

WHEN I told my friends last December that I was joining Catholic Travel's Christmas retreat and pilgrimage to the Holy Land, some of them thought I was living up to my initials—NUT(s).

Skirmishes

The newspapers and the TV news programs were full of reports of political unrest and even skirmishes and fatalities in Israel, so it was deemed highly risky to visit the Holy Land at that time.

In fact, most tourists and pilgrims were avoiding the region like the plague, so why weren't the 40-plus members of our group not "retreating from the retreat" like all those "sensible" travelers?

Good question. Sure, I was aware of the potential risks, but visiting the places where Jesus Christ lived and died still seemed a good idea, particularly during the Christmas season. Yes, I had read about the town of Bethlehem "canceling" Christmas, but I made up my mind to join the other still risk-takers in the group.

Additional incentive

An additional incentive was the fact that the pilgrimage was being timed for the Pope's Jubilee for the World of Entertainment, so other media people would be traveling with us—"Alas Singko Y Medya's" Christine Bersola and Julius Babao, Jeanne Young, Viva's Baby Gil, Nards Belen, their respective staffers, people from Radio Veritas, etc.

OUR group of pilgrims braves the December chill to pose outdoors, with the historic temple of Jerusalem in the background.

Few people

So, on with the tour. We arrived at Ben Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv early in the morning after a series of flights arranged by our travel sponsors, Philippine Airlines and El Al Israel Airlines. We saw right away that there were relatively few people at the airport terminal, an early sign of things to come.

We also noticed that our tour guide was particularly happy about our presence in his country. He shared the information that many tour groups had canceled their visit to Israel, so he and his colleagues gratefully and admiringly called us "those brave Filipinos." Although we really didn't feel all that courageous, we didn't let on, for fear of unmaking their day.

First stop

For our first stop, our spiritual guide, Fr. Renato Jose E. Lopez, SSL, very perceptively chose Caesarea Matutina, where Peter baptized Cornelius, a Roman centurion and the first Gentile convert. The good priest's point was that we too are Gentiles, so we share in the salvation of all mankind.

Moving on to Mt. Carmel in Haifa, we prayed at the Stella Maris church, the sanctuary of Mary, star of the sea, and entrusted our pilgrimage to Her care.

A monument reminded us of the prophet Elijah's spiritual "duel" with the prophets of the heathen god, Baal. This reflection steeled our own readiness to defend our faith against modern-day idolaters.

Emotional effect

Then, on to Nazareth, to Mary's Well at the Church of St. Gabriel, the Basilica of the Annunciation, and the Church of St. Peter. This visit had a particularly emotional effect on us because it reminded us that Mary and Joseph were very simple folk, and yet they became principal protagonists in the greatest story ever told.

Fr. Lopez led us in praying, "Holy Mary, help us to understand that the most fertile chapter of Theology is not that which situates you within the Bible or Patristics, within Spirituality or Liturgy, within Dogma or Art.

"It is that which locates you within the house of Nazareth where, between pots and pans, tears and prayer, bundles of wool and rolls of Scripture, you experienced in the entire breadth of your femininity, joys without malice, bitterness without despair, departures with no returns.

History of salvation

"Holy Mary, ordinary woman, free us from the desire for the great, and teach us to see in everyday life the workplace where the history of salvation is accomplished."

Our first day in the Holy Land was long, eventful, inspiring—and exhausting. Towards evening, we started to droop as jetlag dragged us down to slumberland.

And yet, once we hit the sack, we couldn't sleep! We were bone-tired but keyed-up, full of the insights we had gained from our day-long close encounters in the places where God had set the scene for Jesus Christ's long-awaited redemption of mankind.

VIP gears up for . . .

(From page D6)

Thriller

Steve Zahn, Paul Walker and Leelee Sobieski topbill "Squelch." Directed by John Dahl, this thriller is about a good-hearted college freshman driving cross-country to pick up the girl he loves who is goaded by his "blacksheep" brother into playing a prank over the CB radio and ridiculing a lonely voice in the night. That voice turns out to be their worst nightmare, a "truckmare," a trucker obsessed with exacting revenge.

The much talked-about "Quills" which was named Best Picture by the National Board of Review. This is about a Catholic priest, played by Joaquin Phoenix, who is drawn into the provocative and dangerous world of the Marquis de Sade, played by Geoffrey Rush, as he and the Marquis vie for the soul of a beautiful young woman, a servant girl played by Kate Winslet.

From Baz Luhrmann, director of "William Shakepeare's Romeo and Juliet," comes another enchanting romance, "Moulin Rouge." This is the story of a poet who defies his father by moving to Montmartre, France, the 19th century equivalent of Andy Warhol's Factory. He falls into the world of Toulouse Lautrec and his entourage, and is drafted to write a nightclub spectacular.

Naughty and funny

J.B. Rogers directs "Say It Isn't So" from the screenplay written by the naughty and funny Farrelly brothers. Heather Graham and Chris Klein play the lead roles in this story of a man who falls in love with a beautiful woman but sees his dreams come to a screeching halt when he mistakenly discovers that she is his long-lost sister.

Months and many hilarious scenes later, he learns that she really isn't so, and he sets off to win her back before she marries another man.

The doctor who talks and understands the language of the animals is back and this time he's answering a whole new call of the wild. Eddie Murphy returns as Dr. John Dolittle, who finds his once tranquil world sent further into a comedic tailspin, thanks to his unique ability to talk to the animal kingdom.

. This time, the good doctor is in the middle of the biggest human-animal mess ever, he must mediate a strike called against humans by the whole animal kingdom.

Other VIP offerings from Twentieth Century Fox to watch out for in 2001 are "Minority Report," directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Tom Cruise; "Phone Booth" directed by Joel Schumacher and starring "Tigerland" sensation Colin Farrel; "Planet of the Apes," an updated version of the famous science-fiction classic from the '70s, and many others.

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A boy's bright idea to change the world

WHEN someone does you a favor, don't pay it back. Pay it forward.

Warner Bros. gathers for the first time three Academy Award-honorees, Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt and Haley Joel Osment, in "Pay It Forward," a soul-searching drama that challenges everyone to change the world with goodness. "Deep Impact's" Mimi Leder directs, while Jay Mohr, James Caviezel and Jon Bon Jovi also star.

Teacher

In the film, everything in social studies teacher Eugene Simonet's (Spacey) life is in order—every shirt, every pencil, and every person in its proper place. To keep the surface placid means never having to go deeper. And no one and nothing in his life has ever asked him to.

Arlene McKinney (Hunt) is a single mother hanging on by her fingertips, working two jobs, and struggling to raise her son, Trevor (Osment). She is trying to give him a new life, but in her absence she is losing him.

Eugene gives Trevor's class an assignment: look at the world around you and fix what you don't like. But can you fix people?

Eugene Simonet is a social studies teacher who does not expect this year's seventh grade class to be different from last year's. "Eugene makes the same speech to his class each year hoping, but not quite expecting, that one of his students will take it to heart," says Kevin Spacey who won Oscars for "The Usual Suspects" and "American Beauty." A man whose physical scars inform much deeper emotional scars, Simonet is nonetheless a passionate teacher. "He transfers his hope to his students, because he has no hope for himself. Emotionally, he is completely shut down."

"PAY IT FORWARD" casts Helen Hunt, Haley Joel Osment and Kevin Spacey in complex roles.

Assignment

Director Mimi Leder explains: "Eugene has an assignment that he gives at the beginning of each school year for the past 12 years. The assignment is to think of a way to change our world and put it into action. He hopes, but doesn't anticipate, that his students will take it seriously."

One young student, Trevor McKinney, takes the assignment to heart. Leder notes, "Trevor takes this assignment very seriously because his own life is so troubled. His father is gone; he has had to grow up too soon. He needs some hope in his life. And he gets it from Eugene."

Eleven-year-old Trevor lives in a working class section of Las Vegas with his mother, Arlene. "Trevor's mom works a lot and has some habits which infringe on her ability to take care of him, so he ends up taking care of himself most of the time," says Haley Joel Osment, fresh from his acclaimed performance in "The Sixth Sense," which also garnered the young actor an Academy Award nomination.

"He loves her and wants her to overcome her problems, but he knows it's something she can't do by herself. If she could, she would have done it by now."

Helen Hunt, who won a Best Actress Oscar for her star turn in "As Good As It Gets," plays Trevor's mother, Arlene. "Arlene wants to be a good mother to Trevor," says Hunt.

Waitress

"Her love for him is what helps her through her nights working as a waitress in a strip club and her days as a change girl in a casino. She's trying to leave behind the bad habits that have plagued her all her life, for him. But the habits won't let her go so easily."

Trevor finds inspiration in an unlikely place—his social studies class. "Trevor has never had a teacher like Mr. Simonet," says Osment, "a teacher that doesn't just stand in front of the class and say, 'OK, class, open your books to page one; we're going to do the review questions at the bottom.'

"Mr. Simonet actually talks to the class from his heart. He tells them what social studies is really about—it's about you and the world."

Eugene tells Trevor's class that it is possible for one person to change the world. "It stirs something in Trevor that only a person like Eugene could," says Osment.

"The teacher has a key to unlocking what Trevor has inside. He inspires Trevor to come up with 'pay it forward.' It's something Trevor can finally believe in, something he thinks will make his own life better."

Osment explains Trevor's idea of "pay it forward," as "doing something for people that they can't do for themselves. You just have to do that three times and the people you help each do it three times, then it gets bigger. It goes from three to nine to 27 and on and on and on."

First targets

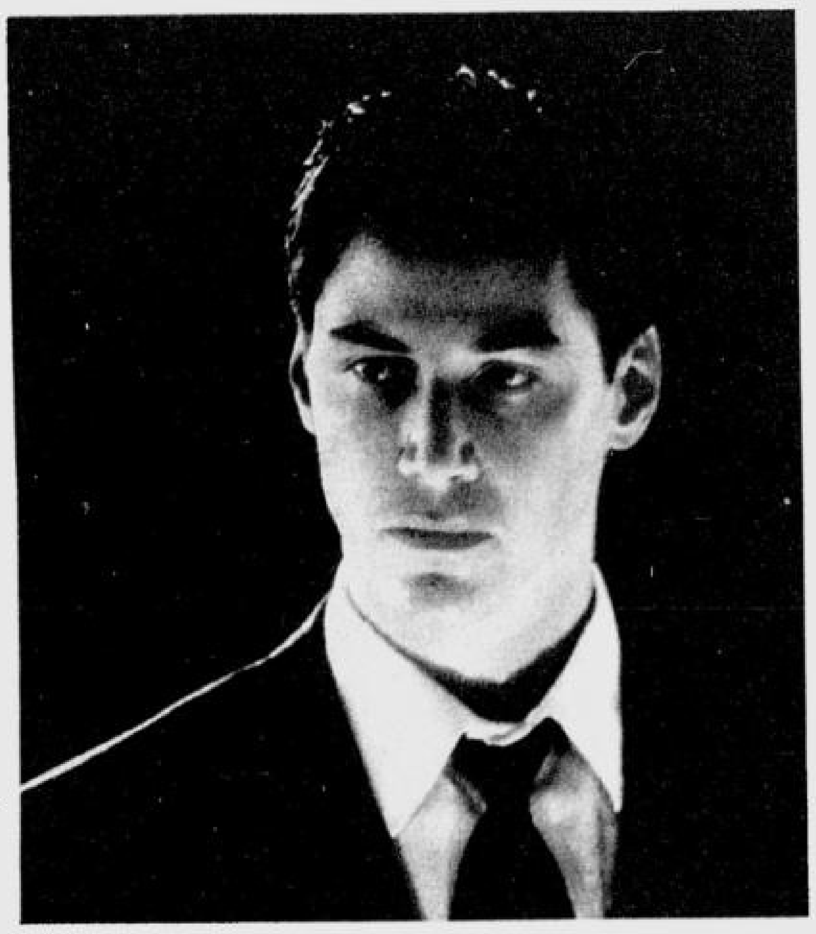
Producer Steve Reuther notes that Trevor's first targets are his mother, his teacher and, through them, maybe himself as well. "Trevor is looking for a dad and a stable home," Reuther says. "One of the three things he does to get 'pay it forward' started is to try to bring his mother and Eugene together. So, he tries to force the relationship, which doesn't exactly work out for the best."

"As the story progresses, Eugene starts to allow himself to be more open because of Trevor, and also because of his feelings for Trevor's mother, Arlene," says Spacey. "He begins to open up and allow himself to be loved."

"These are two people that are completely wary of each other who are brought together by this little boy," says producer Peter Abrams.

"Trevor's project is what initially brings them together and they start in this strange place of trying to talk about this boy who neither one understands. He wants them to try and understand themselves; he's hoping to 'pay it forward' by trying to heal Mr. Simonet and his mother."

Warner Bros. announces its best bets for Film Year 2001


REEVES. Co-stars with Charlize Theron in "Sweet November."

2001, the year Stanley Kubrick made famous, is upon us. So, what's a studio like Warner Bros. to do?

Cult favorite

Re-release in excellent digitally restored format the classic "2001: A Space Odyssey," the mind-blowing cult favorite that ushered in the new era for science-fiction films—a defining moment in cinema history.

Bringing back Kubrick's magnum opus to the screen demonstrates how Warner Bros. aims to dominate the year: seize the audience with films that cater to popular tastes.

Its 2001 line-up is deep with talent—Spielberg, Schwarzenegger, Spacey, Crowe, Keanu, Meg, Sandra and the Farrelly brothers—so Warner can attract all of the audience sectors out there.

The studio's films for the first half of the year:

"2001: A Space Odyssey." This film starkly depicts several encounters mankind has had with never-glimpsed aliens, from the dawn of Man four million years ago to the title year, when an alien artifact is found on the Moon. An expedition tracking the artifact's radio signal is launched to Jupiter, with mysterious, haunting results.

"Proof of Life." In this action-suspense thriller, Russell Crowe is a professional hostage negotiator who falls in love with the wife (Meg Ryan) of an American engineer captured by Latin American rebels—the very hostage he's supposed to rescue.

"Sweet November." Charlize Theron plays Sara Deever, a young woman with a mission. Each month, she starts a new relationship, and helps that man become a better person, and then she moves on.

Secret

Well, here comes November, and this time, it's Nelson Moss (Keanu Reeves), who hopes to woo her for good, but what he doesn't know is the secret behind the brevity of Sara's romances.

"Red Planet." Starring Val Kilmer and "The Matrix's" Carrie-Anne Moss, this action adventure set in the near future follows a team of astronauts making the first manned expedition to Mars. When their equipment suffers life-threatening damage, the crew must depend on one another for survival on the hostile surface of the red planet.

"Pay It Forward." Starring Academy Award honorees Kevin Spacey, Helen Hunt and Haley Joel Osment, this inspiring tale is about a 12-year-old boy who devises a plan to change the world, and in the process, helps his troubled mother find love.

"Miss Congeniality." When a terrorist threatens to bomb the Miss United States pageant, the FBI rushes to assign the reluctant and "one-of-the-boys" FBI agent Gracie Hart (Sandra Bullock) for the job. She must get comfortable with the mercilessly driven and perfectly coifed contestants, infiltrate the pageant and thwart the terrorists.

"Bait." Jamie Foxx ("Any Given Sunday") is a petty thief who accidentally receives crucial information about a gold heist from a master criminal while they are in jail together. The FBI releases him as a human "bait" to lure the criminal's partner out of hiding and reveal the stolen treasure.

Tough cop

"Exit Wounds." Steven Seagal is a tough cop in an inner-city precinct who discovers a web of corruption and dirty cops. That's his cue to kick butt and take no prisoners.

"Valentine." Based upon the 1996 beset seller, "Valentine: A Novel," by Tom Savage, this psychosexual thriller tells the story of four college girlfriends (led by Denise Richards) who ruthlessly humiliate a nerdy kid. Ten years later, and physically transformed into a handsome, happening guy (David Boreanaz), he wreaks his revenge through seduction, killing each of the women on Valentine's Day.

"Pluto Nash." Set in 2087, this sci-fi comedy stars Eddie Murphy as Pluto Nash, the owner of a nightclub on the Moon who becomes the unlikely leader of the lunar independence movement.

Eternal struggle

"Cats and Dogs." There's a secret war being waged in the homes and neighborhoods of Earth that the humans don't even know about--an eternal struggle between two great armies: the Cats and Dogs. The film follows a Cat plan to destroy a new vaccine that, if developed, would destroy all human allergies to Dogs. Specifically, it's the story of a young pup (voiced by Tobey Maguire) whose job is to guard the vaccine.

"Rock Star." Produced by George Clooney and starring Mark Wahlberg and Jennifer Aniston. In the film, the lead singer (Wahlberg) of Blood Pollution, a tribute band to the veteran heavy metal band, Steel Dragon, is surprisingly recruited to sing for the real group when their lead singer leaves.

Movies on HBO and Cinemax this week

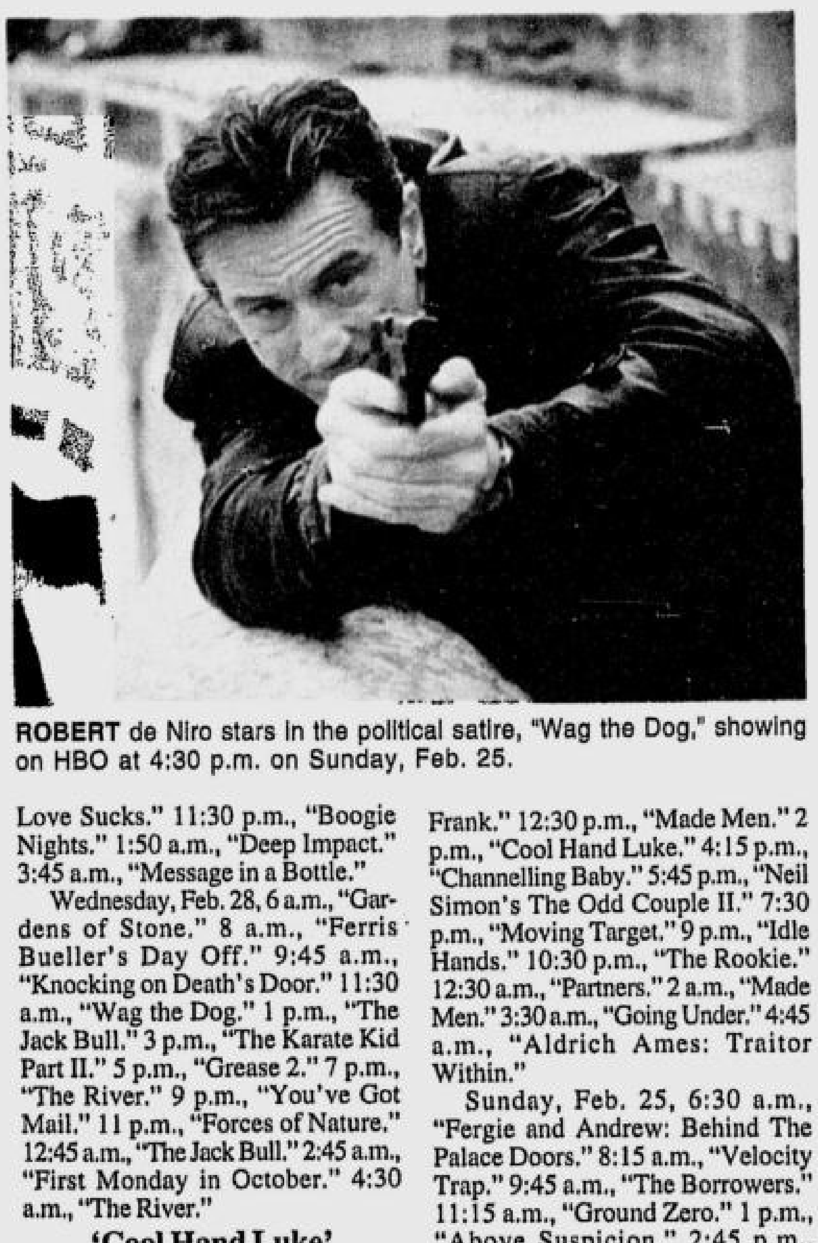
ON the HBO Channel Saturday, Feb. 24, 6:30 a.m., "Heartburn." 8:30 a.m., "Grease 2." 10:30 a.m., "I Married A Monster." 12 p.m., "The Getaway." 2 p.m., "Lost in Space." 4:15 p.m., "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." 6 p.m., "The Art of Murder." 7:30 p.m., "Problem Child 2." 9 p.m., "The Jack Bull." 11 p.m., "Deep Impact." 1 a.m., "Psycho." 2:45 a.m., "Stick." 4:30 a.m., "Little Nikita."

Sunday, Feb. 25, 6 a.m., "Positive I.D." 7:30 a.m., "The Legend of Dogwoman." 9:15 a.m., "Lock, Stock And Two Smoking Barrels." 11 a.m., "The Fury Within." 12:30 p.m., "Above the Law." 2 p.m., "Raising Cain." 3:30 p.m., "Xtreme: Sports to Die For." 4:30 p.m., "Wag the Dog." 6:15 p.m., "Milk Money." 8 p.m., "Reality Bites." 9:45 p.m., "The Corruptor." 11:35 p.m., "Trial and Error." 1:15 a.m., "Action 8: Dragon's Blood." 1:40 a.m., "Knocking on Death's Door." 3:15 a.m., "The Karate Kid Part II." 5 a.m., "Loose Cannons."

'Cape Fear'

Monday, Feb. 26, 6:30 a.m., "Uncommon Valor." 8:15 a.m., "The Last Married Couple in America." 10 a.m., "Farewell my Love." 11:30 a.m., "Brave New World." 1 p.m., "Cape Fear." 3 p.m., "Touched by a Killer." 4:30 p.m., "The Dukes of Hazzard: Hazzard in Hollywood." 6 p.m., "Every Mother's Worst Fear." 7:30 p.m., "Big Daddy." 9 p.m., "The Color of Courage." 10:30 p.m., "The Negotiator." 12:45 a.m., "Swing Shift." 2:30 a.m., "Cape Fear." 4:30 a.m., "Big Daddy."

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 6 a.m., "Under Hellgate Bridge." 7:30 a.m., "The Art of Murder." 9 a.m., "Stick." 10:45 a.m., "Message in a Bottle." 1 p.m., "Frozen." 2:30 p.m., "Deep Impact." 4:30 p.m., "Stolen Women." 6 p.m., "Carlito's Way." 11 p.m., "Action 9: Love Sucks." 11:30 p.m., "Boogie Nights." 1:50 a.m., "Deep Impact." 3:45 a.m., "Message in a Bottle."


ROBERT de Niro stars in the political satire, "Wag the Dog," showing on HBO at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 25.

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6 a.m., "Gardens of Stone." 8 a.m., "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." 9:45 a.m., "Knocking on Death's Door." 11:30 a.m., "Wag the Dog." 1 p.m., "The Jack Bull." 3 p.m., "The Karate Kid Part II." 5 p.m., "Grease 2." 7 p.m., "The River." 9 p.m., "You've Got Mail." 11 p.m., "Forces of Nature." 12:45 a.m., "The Jack Bull." 2:45 a.m., "First Monday in October." 4:30 a.m., "The River."

'Cool Hand Luke'

On the Cinemax Channel Saturday, Feb. 24, 6 a.m., "The Rookie." 8 a.m., "A Mother's Testimony." 9:30 a.m., "Partners." 11 a.m., "My Mother Frank." 12:30 p.m., "Made Men." 2 p.m., "Cool Hand Luke." 4:15 p.m., "Channelling Baby." 5:45 p.m., "Neil Simon's The Odd Couple II." 7:30 p.m., "Moving Target." 9 p.m., "Idle Hands." 10:30 p.m., "The Rookie." 12:30 a.m., "Partners." 2 a.m., "Made Men." 3:30 a.m., "Going Under." 4:45 a.m., "Aldrich Ames: Traitor Within."

Sunday, Feb. 25, 6:30 a.m., "Fergie and Andrew: Behind The Palace Doors." 8:15 a.m., "Velocity Trap." 9:45 a.m., "The Borrowers." 11:15 a.m., "Ground Zero." 1 p.m., "Above Suspicion." 2:45 p.m., "Hexed." 4:15 p.m., "Giant." 7:30 p.m., "Airspeed." 9 p.m., "Detroit Rock City." 10:30 p.m., "Cruel Intentions." 12:05 a.m., "Ground Zero." 1:45 a.m., "A Return to Salem's Lot." 3:30 a.m., "Velocity Trap." 5 a.m., "Melvin and Howard."

'East of Eden'

Monday, Feb. 26, 6:30 a.m., "Past Midnight." 8:15 a.m., "Descending Angel." 10 a.m., "Mind Games." 11:45 a.m., "East of Eden." 1:45 p.m., "Can't Hardly Wait." 3:30 p.m., "Aldrich Ames: Traitor Within." 5:15 p.m., "The Shamrock Conspiracy." 6:45 p.m., "Les Miserables (1998)." 9 p.m., "Dead on the Money." 10:30 p.m., "Descending Angel." 12:10 a.m., "Can't Hardly Wait." 1:50 a.m., "Nuremberg Part 1." 3:30 a.m., "Nuremberg Part 2." 5 a.m., "Blood and Concrete A Love Story."

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 6:30 a.m., "Lured Innocence." 8:15 a.m., "The Matchmaker." 9:45 a.m., "Made Men." 11:15 a.m., "Neil Simon's The Odd Couple II." 1 p.m., "Partners." 2:30 p.m.;"Channeling Baby." 4 p.m., "Rebel Without a Cause." 6 p.m., "My Mother Frank." 7:30 p.m., "The Wogboy." 9 p.m., "Gulag." 11:10 p.m., "Made Men." 12:40 a.m., "Lured Innocence." 2:15 a.m., "Channeling Baby." 3:45 a.m., "Roxanne." 5:30 a.m., "Cinema Streets Ep. 7: Leading Animals."

Wednesday, Feb. 28, 6 a.m., "The Big Lewbowski." 7:30 a.m., "Cinema Secrets Ep 8: Cinema Super Spies." 8 a.m., "Going Under." 9:30 a.m., "Official Denial." 11 a.m., "My Girl 2." 12:45 p.m., "Joe Versus The Volcano." 2:30 p.m., "Stranger Than Fiction." 4:15 p.m., "Airspeed." 5:45 p.m., "Above Suspicion." 7:30 p.m., "Blowback" 9 p.m., "Scarfies." 10:30 p.m., "The Rookie." 12:30 a.m., "The Adventures of Brisco County Jr." 2 a.m., "Joe Versus The Volcano." 3:45 a.m., "Above Suspicion." 5:30 a.m., "Hollywood Superstars: Jessica Lange."

Because the story is the story

GETTING the news from the people who gather the news—that, in a nutshell, is the remarkable story behind "ABS-CBN Headlines" (11 p.m. weeknights on channel 2).

Recent figures

According to recent figures from AGB TV Ratings, the TV Research Council's official supplier, "ABS-CBN Headlines" regularly beats its nearest news competitor with a solid five-point lead in Metro Manila ("Headlines" scoring a 14 percent rating to the competitor's 9 percent).

"Headlines" also enjoys a commanding lead in the competitive Mega Manila market (comprised of Metro Manila, Rizal, Cavite, Laguna, Bulacan and Pampanga). In this region, "Headlines" receives a 14 percent rating to the other network's 10 percent, making "Headlines" the number one evening news broadcast in the country.

"I think this proves what we've always believed: that in news, the story *is* the story," says "ABS-CBN Headlines" executive producer Ging Reyes. "The purpose behind 'Headlines' was to produce a news broadcast that would, in both visual and story terms, be different from any show that preceded it."

Which explains the distinct look and feel of "Headlines." Because the network wanted "Headlines" to be a showcase for its reporters, writers and producers, even the show's opening credits were altered: while traditionally, the anchor reads the headlines, this time it's the reporters who introduce their own stories.

Ensemble

"We think of this as an ensemble program, not a star-driven one, so everyone gets a hand in the presentation," says Reyes. "It's less of a break with tradition as it is moving the format forward by becoming more story-driven, instead of personality-centered."

However, it has an admittedly star-studded group of correspondents, headed by Karen Davila, and followed by Mon Ilagan, Henry Omaga-Diaz, Doris Bigornia, Cherry Mercado, Pia Hontiveros, Ronald Estella, Erwin Tulfo, Carmelita Valdez, Melo del Prado, Dindo Amparo, Josie Sison, Weng Orejana, Katherine de Castro, and even anchor Tony Velasquez, who also doubles as Malacañang correspondent.

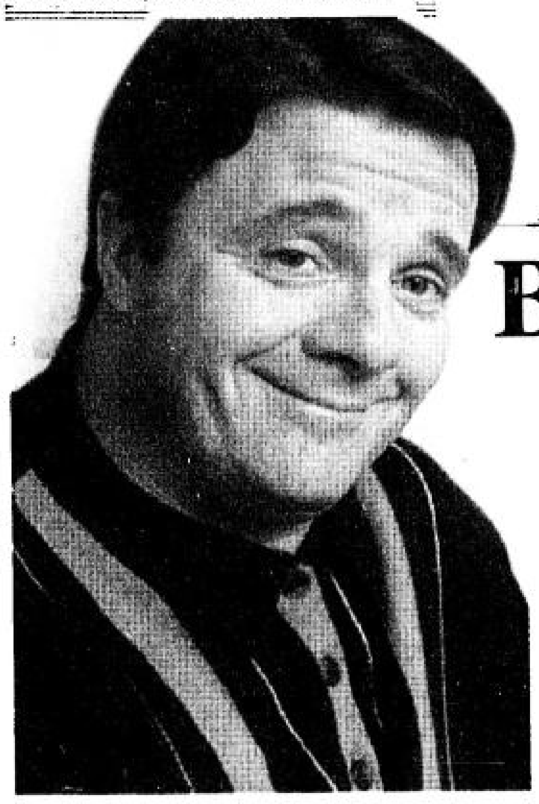
The network also decided to alter "Headlines'" visual language to assign as much symbolic weight to the stories as it does to the personalities who deliver them. Co-anchor Gel Santos-Relos reports from a "virtual set," which includes a giant moving video graphic screen. Anchor Tony Velasquez, meanwhile, opens the show while standing in front of a raft of TV monitors.

Visuals

For the bulk of his reportage, however, he is in front of a high-definition TV monitor that delivers the visuals while Tony goes through his spiels. "In that way, the stories become part of 'ABS-CBN Headlines' aesthetics," says Reyes, "TV image *pa lang, siksik na sa detalye.*"

The choice of anchors is in keeping with this philosophy, as both bring years of experience to the program. Head anchor Velasquez served as ABS-CBN's head correspondent for Malacañang, while concurrently filing reports for the multi-awarded newsmagazine "The Correspondents" and working as head writer for now Sen. Loren Legarda's "The Inside Story."

Broadway goes to the movies this season



LANE. Co-stars with Matthew Broderick in "The Producers."

By Michael Kuchwara

NEW YORK—Broadway is going to the movies again this spring.

Last fall saw the success of "The Full Monty." Now theatergoers can expect "The Producers," "Judgment at Nuremberg," "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" and even a revival of "42nd Street," which, of course, was freely adapted from the classic 1933 film musical.

New plays

"Nuremberg" is one of five new plays making their way to Broadway before May, and "Cuckoo's Nest" is one of only two revivals of plays.

The biggest buzz, though, surrounds "The Producers," Mel Brooks' stage version of his own movie. That movie's cult status rivals "The Rocky Horror Picture Show," another film whose earlier theater incarnation was resurrected on Broadway this season.

Theater industry folk who have seen snippets of "The Producers" have burbled about its chances for success. The ingredients certainly are there:

—Two potent stars, Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, in the roles originated on screen by Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder. They play two less-than-scrupulous producers who hope to produce a flop musical and run off with their investors' money.

—Brooks himself, who is writing new songs, and, along with Thomas Meehan of "Annie" fame, adapting his original screenplay for the stage.

Supervision

—The supervision of Susan Stroman, Broadway's reigning director and choreographer of musicals.

The critical verdict comes down April 19 when the $10 million musical opens at the St. James Theatre.

"A Class Act," on the other hand, started small. Opening last October at Manhattan Theatre Club's tiny Stage II, the biographical musical concerns Ed Kleban, the forgotten man of "A Chorus Line," which, until "Cats," was Broadway's longest running musical.

Kleban, portrayed here by Lonny Price, wrote the lyrics for "A Chorus Line," his one Broadway success. "A Class Act," chronicles Kleban's struggles to write for the stage—before and after his single monster hit. "A Class Act" kicks off Broadway's spring season, opening March 11 at the Ambassador Theatre.

The spring's other new musical harks back to Mark Twain, whose writings have been musicalized in such diverse shows as "Big River," "The Apple Tree" and "A Connecticut Yankee."

Now it's Tom Sawyer's turn, with the appropriately titled "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer." Music and lyrics are by Don Schlitz, who wrote the Kenny Rogers' hit, "The Gambler."

Newcomer

Newcomer Joshua Park plays Tom, Jim Poulos is Huck Finn and Kristen Gell portrays Becky Thatcher. Look for Tom and that famous whitewashing-the-fence scene at the Minskoff Theatre April 26.

Three musical revivals will arrive by June. 1. First up, the eagerly awaited reworking of "Follies," the legendary Stephen Sondheim-William Goldman musical about the reunion of old Follies stars at a Broadway theater that is about to be torn down.

This being a Sondheim musical, guilt, recrimination and regret fill the air. Blythe Danner, Gregory Harrison, Judith Ivey and Treat Williams portray the two couples who shoulder the burden of all the angst. Look for such luminous performers as Polly Bergen, Betty Garrett, Marge Champion and Joan Roberts (the original Laurey in the 1943 "Oklahoma!") playing former Follies showgirls. The musical, under the direction of Matthew Warchus, opens April 5 at the Belasco Theatre.

A week later, April 12, "Bells Are Ringing" arrives at the Plymouth Theatre. The 1956 original showcased Judy Holliday, turning the star of "Born Yesterday" into a genuine musical comedy performer.

Unenviable task

Faith Prince has the unenviable task of taking on Holliday's role of Ella Peterson, the telephone-answering service operator who falls in love with one of her clients. Marc Kudisch is the object of her dial-tone affection. The show has music by Jule Styne and book and lyrics by Betty Comden and Adolph Green.

The final musical revival of the season, "42nd Street," was one of the longest-running musicals of the 1980s. Michael Cumpsty is the hard-boiled producer who makes a star out of little Peggy Sawyer of Allentown, Pennsylvania, played here by Kate Levering. Look for all the toe-tapping to commence May 2 at the Ford Center for the Performing Arts.

"Judgment at Nuremberg" began life on television, before being turned into a movie in 1961. Now it has found its way to the stage. Abby Mann, who wrote the original TV and movie screenplays, has adapted it for the theater, too.

The stars are George Grizzard and Maximilian Schell, who won an Academy Award for his role in the movie. A fictionalized account of the trial of Nazi leaders after World War II, the play opens March 26 at the Longacre.

Survivor

The Holocaust and its aftermath also take center stage in "The Gathering,", a new play by Arje Shaw and starring Hal Linden as a concentration camp survivor. The drama arrives April 24 at the Cort.

Two big-name playwrights will be heard from this spring. Tom Stoppard's "The Invention of Love" was a London hit several years ago. Now Lincoln Center Theater will produce the drama about poet A.E. Housman, who in Stoppard's play looks ruefully back on his life.

Richard Easton plays the older Housman and Robert Sean Leonard is the poet as a young man. The curtain rises March 29 at the Lyceum.

August Wilson continues his decade-by-decade saga of the black experience in the 20th century with "King Hedley II," set in 1985. The drama concerns some of the same characters featured in Wilson's "Seven Guitars."

Brian Stokes Mitchell, direct from his triumph in the revival of "Kiss Me, Kate," plays the title character. Also featured in the cast is Leslie Uggams. Look for the play April 29 at the Virginia

BROADWAY/E4

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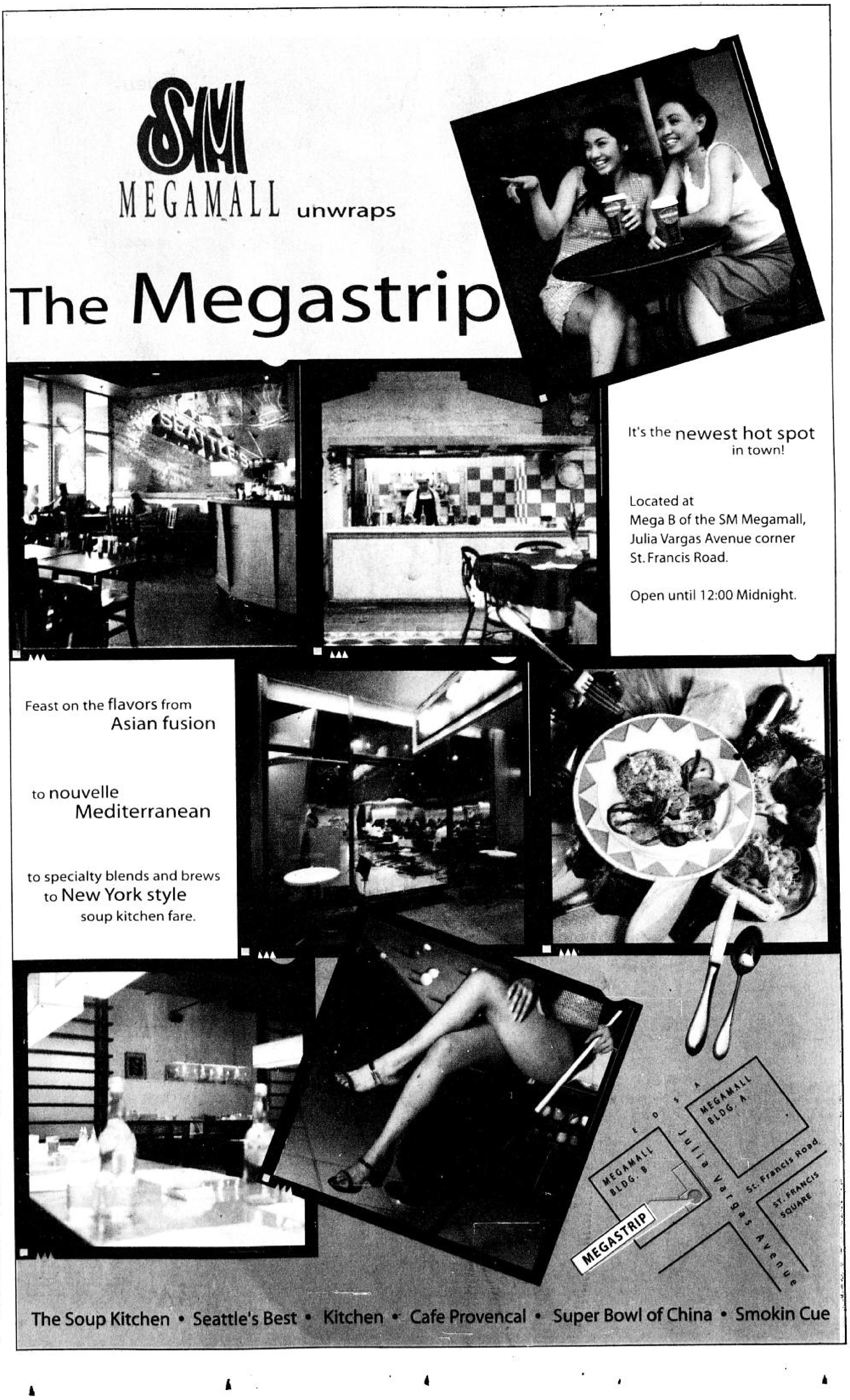

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GLOBE HANDYPHONE
X-MEN BATTLEGUIDE

THE MOBILE GAME

VIA INFOTEXT

Are you a mutant? What are your amazing superhuman powers? Find out by playing Globe Handyphone's X-MEN: The Mobile Game via Infotext. Discover your hidden mutant abilities and train under Professor Xavier. Then compete against other mutants to improve your skills and powers.

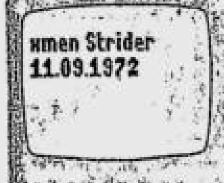
The future of the world is in your hands!

When playing and typing in the commands remember that:
- All messages begin with **xmen**
- Each word or abbreviation must be separated by a space.
- It does not matter if you write in UPPER or lower case.
  Exceptions to this are code names of other players.
- Every message must be sent to the server at the following number: **2324**
- Two first characters of each game command suffice when the player sends messages.
  An exception to this is the command XMEN and the code names of other players.

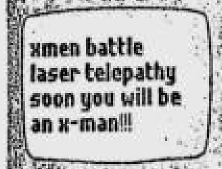
BATTLE COMMANDS

xmen

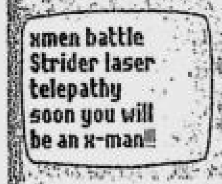
To join the school for the first time, key-in: **xmen** and send to **2324**.


xmen Strider
11.09.1972

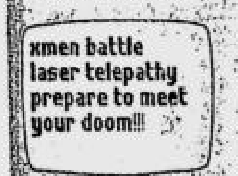
Creating your character, key-in: **xmen [code name] [birth date/mm.dd.yyyy]** and send to **2324**.


xmen battle
laser telepathy
soon you will be
an x-man!!!

To practice a duel, key-in: **xmen battle [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324**.


xmen battle
Strider laser
telepathy
soon you will
be an x-man!!!

To practice a duel with your friend / against bitter enemy, key-in: **xmen battle [name/phone number] [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324**.


xmen battle
laser telepathy
prepare to meet
your doom!!!

To respond to a duel challenge, key-in: **xmen battle [attack mutation] [defense mutation] [your 50 character message]** and send to **2324**.

xmen chat Strider
you cannot hide
from me!

To chat with another player, key-in: **xmen chat [code name] [message]** and send to 2324.

OTHER COMMANDS:

- To check the information on your own game character, key-in: **xmen stats** and send to **2324.**
- To take a break from the game, key-in: **xmen off** and send to **2324.**
- To resume the game, key-in: **xmen on** or **xmen battle** and send to **2324**.
- To quit the game, key-in: **xmen quit** and send to **2324.**
- For general instructions, key-in: **xmen help** and send to **2324**
- To know more about a certain command, key-in: **xmen help [command]** and send to **2324.**
- To know the overview of the game, key-in: **xmen idea** and send to **2324.**

Text Messaging Rates for X-Men: The Mobile Game:
₱2.00 for Plan Subscribers, ₱2.50 for Prepaid Plus Subscribers, for every successful message sent.

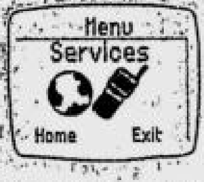
VIA WAP

Get ready to save the world from the Magneto and his evil Brotherhood of Mutants. In this WAP version of X-Men: The Mobile Game, you take on the role of Professor Xavier, leader of the X-Men. Your task: fight Magneto's troops who have already taken over cities around the globe. Send your team to these cities and free them from the clutches of those malevolent mutants.

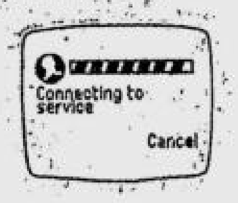
Here's how to get started on the X-MEN: The Mobile Game via WAP:

nokiawap

1. If you're a first time WAP-user, key-in the keyword of your phone type and send it to **2333**. The WAP phone configurations will be sent to you. The keywords are: <nokiawap> for Nokia 7110 and 6210, <siemenswap> for Siemens M35i, <ericssonwap> for EricssonR320s, <motorolawap> for Motorola T2288.



2. If your WAP handset is already configured, go to the services menu of your WAP-capable phone and click on Home.



3. You will then see a prompt advising you that you are being connected to the service.

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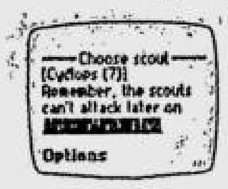
New Sites

4. Once connected, the Globe Homepage will appear. Find and click on XMEN under the New Sites and Games Category and WAP away.

Here's how to play X-MEN: The Mobile Game via WAP:

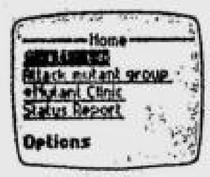
Cyclops (2/3)
Options

STARTING THE MISSION: Click on **Start new mission** on the main menu. To start a mission, pick one city out of three alternatives. After you have chosen the city, you can either send a scout or make an attack plan.



Remember, the scouts can't attack later on

SENDING A SCOUT: To collect more information about your opponents in the chosen city you can send a scout. Do this by clicking on **Send a scout**. Each scout that is sent brings back information on one of the opponent's team members; name, location, and mutant ability level. This information should help you to make your attack plan. The scout, however, cannot be used in combat.

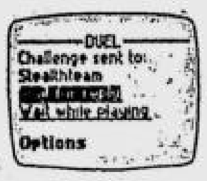


ENEMY: An attack plan is made by clicking on **Make attack plan**. You are presented with pictures of the specific targets. The pictures help you to assign the targets according to your team members' special skills. When a mutant for each target is chosen, click **Launch attack** and that will start the attack.

YOU LOSE!
Options

Wham! Your opponent was simply too ferocious for you. It's

MISSION RESULTS: After every mission, you are informed of the result of the battle and of your team members' new mutation values. If the mission was successful, you can move on to the next city. If not, the mission has to be started over. The second time around is easier, since you now know how the specific targets affect team members' skill levels.



DUEL WITH OTHER MUTANT GROUPS: Challenge another team to a duel by clicking on the link **Duel**. Then key-in the name of the mutant group you want to challenge or battle a group from a random list of players. The challenge is then forwarded to the opponent assuming he or she is currently active in the game.

Status report
wyslwyg
Options

STATUS REPORT: Click on **Status report** and get info on your mutant group, including your group name, current game level, number of missions completed and duels fought (victories/losses/total amount of duels). The report also tells the number of missions and duels required for moving up one level.

INSTRUCTIONS: Get the complete Instructions for the game by clicking **Instructions** on the main page or log on to Globe's website at http://www.globe.com.ph.

WAP rates for X-Men: The Mobile Game:

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	Advantage	Personal	Business	Executive	CEO	
Peak Hours	₱ 7.50	₱ 7.00	₱ 6.50	₱ 5.00	₱ 4.00	₱ 8.00
Off-Peak Hours	₱ 3.00	₱ 3.00	₱ 2.00	₱ 2.00	₱ 2.00	₱ 3.00

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Broadway . . .

(From page E1)

Theatre.

Variety of roles

The Irish are back on Broadway—this time with the London success, "Stones in His Pockets," by Marie Jones. Sean Campion and Conleth Hill portray a variety of roles in the comedy about the filming of a big-budget, starry Hollywood-style film in Ireland. The premiere: April 1 at the Golden Theatre.

Noel Coward's "Design for Living," a comedy about three very good friends, was considered quite racy when it first opened on Broadway in 1933. Lynn Fontanne, Alfred Lunt and Coward himself were the stars.

Now the Roundabout Theatre Company has Alan Cumming, Jennifer Ehle and Dominic West as the three decadent artists. The high jinks start March 15 at the Roundabout's American Airlines Theatre.

"One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest" is best remembered as a Jack Nicholson movie in 1975. Yet before the film, there was a 1963 stage version by Dale Wasserman, based on the Ken Kesey novel. It's this adaptation, courtesy of Chicago's Steppenwolf Theater Company, that will be revived at the Royale. Gary Sinise stars. Opening date: April 8.

DANNER. Stars in a revival of Stephen Sondheim's "Follies."

And, finally, there's "Blast," a show that seems to defy classification. What exactly is it? "Drum and bugle corps, marching band and cheering-leading routines raised to the nth degree," according to one out-of-town review. We shall see. The apparently loud extravaganza opens April 17 at the Broadway Theatre.

AP

Garlic works wonders

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia

MOST Filipinos know garlic as a cooking ingredient but very few actually understand the health benefits of this amazing gift of nature. It's time we learn the secret powers hidden within this tiny plant bulb.

Jason Elias and Shelagh Ryan Masline, authors of "Healing Herbal Remedies," reveal wonderful pieces of information about garlic. Excerpts:

Ancient healers

"Garlic is among the world's oldest and most effective herbal remedies. Ancient healers from Greece to India used garlic to treat a wide range of ailments. The Egyptian slaves who built the pyramids were given a daily ration of garlic to prevent disease and promote strength. According to one tale, society's first strike took place when garlic became scarce and the slaves were denied their rations.

"Garlic was the remedy of choice for treating wounded soldiers during World War I. Although penicillin was discovered in 1928 and antibiotics replaced garlic after that, when the Russian army ran out of penicillin in World War II, they turned again to garlic. After that, garlic was nicknamed the Russian penicillin.

Primary functions

"Garlic reduces the level of cholesterol and plaque in your heart's arteries. Take it to improve your overall 'heart health.'

"Raw garlic contains a natural antibiotic that makes it an effective, broad-based infection fighter. When garlic is chewed or crushed, this powerful antibiotic chemical is released. A combination of crushed raw garlic and honey may be just the thing to cure a sore throat.

Other benefits

"Garlic is an excellent overall tonic for your body. Take it daily to strengthen your digestive and respiratory systems. Garlic also protects your body from disease.

"Garlic may help in the treatment of colds, flu, bronchitis, whooping cough, food poisoning, blood diseases, bowel infection, and women's bladder and vaginal yeast infections.

"Studies suggest that garlic may prevent stomach and other types of cancer.

"Garlic regulates your blood pressure so effectively that it is used to treat both high and low blood pressure.

"Garlic has an anti-clotting action that decreases your risk of heart attack and stroke. If you already suffer from a clotting disorder, consult with your doctor before taking medicinal amounts of garlic.

"Garlic reduces the level of sugar in your blood. If you are diabetic, talk to your doctor about possibly incorporat-

GARLIC/ E6

Jollibee: A commitment towards empowering future generations

If children live with encouragement,
they learn to be confident
If children live with praise,
they learn to appreciate
With what are your children living?

- excerpt from a poem by Dorothy Notte

"When I grow up, I want to be an artist," said gradeschooler Bernadette Umali, one of the winners in Jollibee's previous storybook writing and illustration contest. She and hundreds of other kids are the reason behind the fastfood leader's continuing commitment towards empowering the youth through initiating and sponsoring educational yet fun programs.

One such program is Jollibee's award-winning *"Kaya Mo, Kid!"* campaign. Now on its 5th year, the program endeavors to instill confidence among the Filipino youth via various skills and values-laden activities.

These activities include the *"Kaya Mong Mag-drawing, Kid!," "Kaya Mong Sumulat, Kid!," "Kaya Mong Lumikha, Kid!"* and last year's *"Kaya Mong Magkuwento, Kid!"* competitions. These nationwide competitions aimed to hone the Filipino child's skills in writing, drawing, scrap art making and storybook writing and illustrating, respectively.

Apart from competitions, Jollibee also launched its *"Isang Pamilya"* interactive storybook with CD/cassette tape. The novelty item encouraged kids to have fun while reading stories and singing songs that imparted moral lessons and good values. Another book, the *"Kaya Mo, Kid! Ang Aklat,"* delved on how kids can be heroes in their own small way. The book, which is sold at all National Bookstore branches, is a compilation of selected winning stories and illustrations from Jollibee's essay writing and drawing competitions.

Wanting to spread the value of literacy among less fortunate children, Jollibee also encouraged donors of its *"MaAga ang Pasko"* toy drive to donate children's book. To date, some 2,000 children's book have already been distributed to needy children in various institutions.

Jollibee also pledges its support for other organizations which promote literacy and educational endeavors among young children. An example is Museo Pambata and City of Manila's literacy campaign billed *"Sa Aklat Sisikat"* in 1999. Aimed at encouraging reading among children, the project kicked off with a poster campaign in various Manila schools. Popular actor Aga Muhlach represented Jollibee.

Currently, Jollibee is backing up Museo Pambata in its newest project—*"Iba't-ibang kamay, iisang buhay...Filipino!,"* a traveling exhibit using traditional arts and crafts as a unifying theme. It aims to make the Filipino youth proud of their roots.

The exhibit features a two and a half-day workshop dubbed "Breaking barriers, building peace and love for country." The workshop, for selected second year high school students and their teachers in values education, will teach children about their rights as human beings; appreciate their individuality and collectively as a nation; break away from typecasting; as well as providing activities for reflecting and sharing.

Schedules for the "Breaking barriers, building peace and love for country" workshop are on February 16 to 18 in Cebu City and March 16 to 19 in Bacolod City. It will also be introduced in other key provinces in the coming months.

Another project which Jollibee is supporting is Adarna Publishing's *"Biyaheng Adarna."* The project, in cooperation with Filipinas Heritage Library, aims to promote the value of reading through book give-aways and entertaining activities such as storytelling and games.

"Biyaheng Adarna," which was started last year, will be launched again in Caloocan on February 10 and 24 and Valenzuela on March 10 and 24. It aims to instill among children the value of reading. Jollibee and Adarna Publishing hope to achieve this by immersing the kids in the wonderful world of books through storytelling. Renowned storyteller Melody Remorca will lead the storytelling sessions in the barangays. Each session targets an average of 200 kids ages 3 to 12 years old who may or may not be attending school.

Indeed, Jollibee, in its own small way, is helping lay the foundation for this and future generations' enhanced quality of life. The long and varied line-up of kiddie empowerment and learning activities, which the company advocates, is a demonstration of Jollibee's commitment towards ensuring that tomorrow's citizens will grow up confident and ready to face life's biggest challenges.

Forever friends

STREET SMART

Mandy Navasero

IT WAS in November last year when my "Forever Friends" gang renewed the ritual of friendship. Linda Victa Robeniol was in town for a class reunion with former high school classmates in Cavite. She and her two grown-up daughters had migrated to the USA and settled in San Diego, California where she works as a head surgical nurse at Kaiser Hospital.

Because Linda was in town, we had a weeklong celebration—turkey dinner on Thanksgiving Day at the Garcias', lunches, dinners, movies, shopping, etc.

Computer expert

The rest of the *barkada* is in Manila: Edna Bulseco-Baxter now teaches at the British School. Her son Richard had graduated from London University and Vanessa is at the International School. Edna's hubby, British computer expert Roger, works with IBM Philippines.

Myrna Medina-Magdaluyo has become a well-regarded exporter of lingerie and ladies' garments manufactured and distributed by her company, Elle Phils, Inc. Her four sons are—Carlo, married to Lea, an executive at Lintas, now with a daughter; Rene, my godchild, married a *doktora* and has two sons; Noel married Ginny and has two kids; and Pao studies at St. Benilde and stays with Myrna in their comfortable and fashionable home.

Gloria Dominguez-Garcia seems to be the most successful in terms of having the most "powerful" husband, Freddie Garcia, president of ABS-CBN. They have four kids—Miguel, who has a son, Christian; Ana, now into the restaurant business; Ritchie works for an advertising firm, and the youngest, Carlo, got married last December to Kay, the mother of his son Javy. Myrna, Edna and I were all godmothers at the wedding, not because of any social status but because of friendship.

Single parent

And I, the single parent, opted to create my own family: My eldest is Julia, turning 19, taking Multimedia Art Management at St. Benilde; Imogen Kate, 17, is a high school student at St. Scholastica's College; Amanda Noelle, 10, is going on to Grade 4 at St. Scholastica's College, and Kertesz Leon, 4, is in senior nursery at the Child Learning Center. I play the mother role to the hilt!

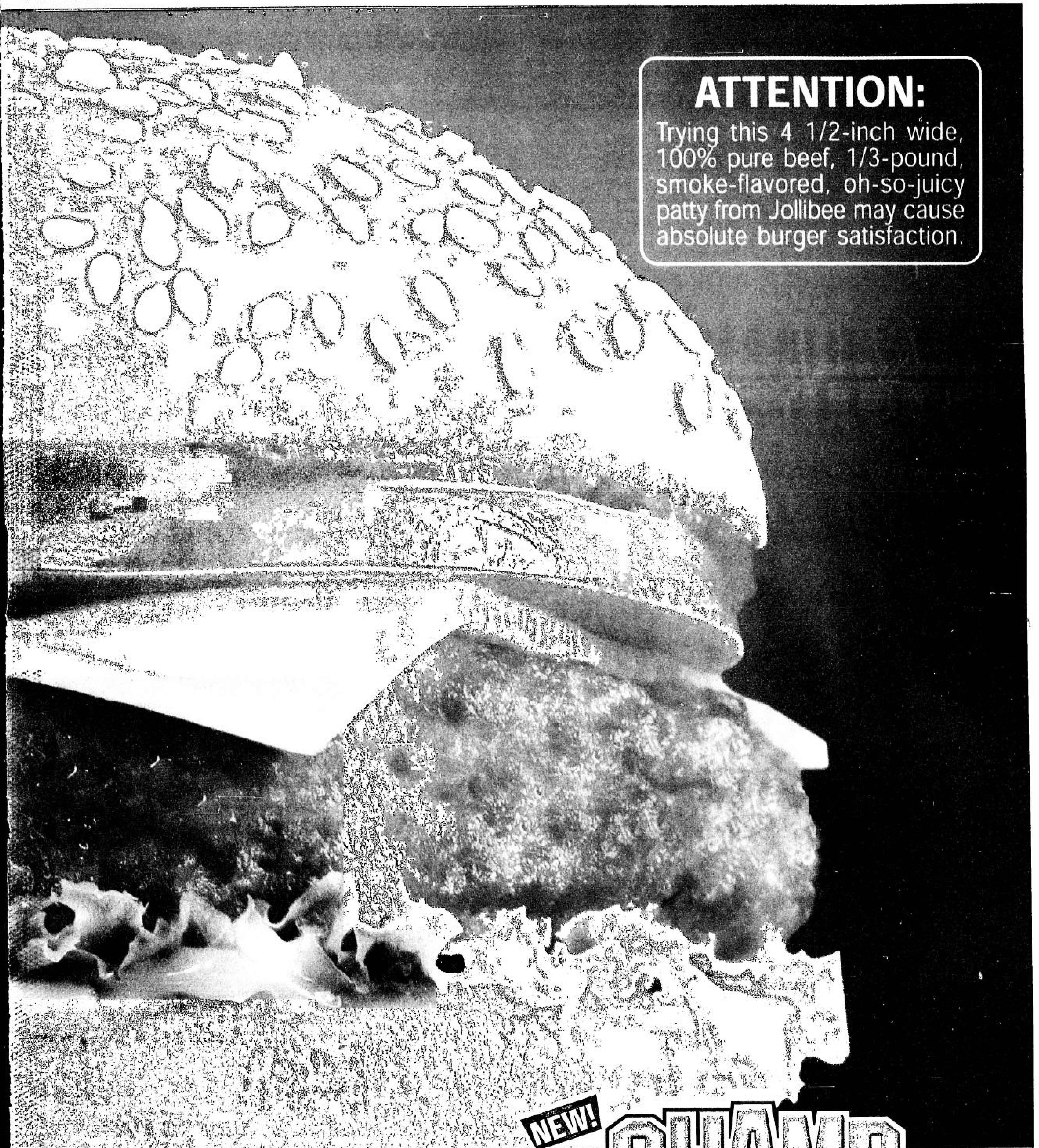
The five of us all met at Philippine Women's University, where we attended college. Later on, we set up house together in a penthouse and eventually, long before it became an accepted thing among singles, we rented an apartment. Gloria, the Bayanihan dancer, and Freddie Garcia were already an item at the time.

That day in November, as the culmination of our weeklong celebration in honor of Linda, we set sail for Batangas on board the Gloria Maris, named after our friend Gloria by the owner of the boat, her husband Freddie.

At the Manila Yacht Club, our meeting place, a funny incident happened. I handed a bag filled with fashionable ethnic accessories of bracelets and anklets to our visiting *balikbayan barkada* Linda but everyone also got a handful.

FOREVER/ E6

OUR gang in 1967: From left, Myrna Magdaluyo, Edna Bulseco, the bride Gloria Dominguez, the author and Linda Victa.



ATTENTION:
Trying this 4 1/2-inch wide, 100% pure beef, 1/3-pound, smoke-flavored, oh-so-juicy patty from Jollibee may cause absolute burger satisfaction.

TAYLOR, ROONEY AND TURNER. Much-married stars whose multiple unions aroused the ire of conservatives.

Broken marriages in Hollywood

By Behn Cervantes

"SAD movies make me cry," moan the lyrics of a saccharine song of the '60s. After all, don't we romantics all love happy endings? Shouldn't Cinderella live happily ever after with her Prince Charming? Shouldn't Sleeping Beauty grow old but happy in the arms of her kissable Prince?

Blissful abandon

Shouldn't Tarzan forever swing Jane from tree to tree in blissful abandon? Should love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage? Of course!

And fans transfer those hopes to their movie idols' real lives. They hope that they will fall in love, marry an ideal mate and set up that cozy nest with all the trimmings of MGM musicals. They root for the success of a marriage made in Hollywood heaven. It fosters their belief that all good things end on a happy note.

Alas, they confuse the reel world with the real one. Sometimes, we wonder if the stars themselves realize the difference. No doubt, they are a romantic set of human beings. They love more often than we do—and marry more often, too! But, how do these romances and marriages end up?

Sad to say, many marriages in Tinseltown ruefully end up in divorce court, where the skeletons in the stars' closets are revealed to shock the whole world. The failure of those mythical unions saddens movie fans. Why is divorce such an inevitable fate for the stars' marriages?

Divorce lawyers

Hollywood divorce lawyers like Jerry Geisler have made piles of money cashing in on marital problems like incompatibility, mental anguish and alienation of affection. In Hollywood divorce courts, he won the best financial arrangements for his clients, who included Bette Davis, Joan Crawford and Errol Flynn.

Settlement then centered on alimony. However, when 'living in' became the thing to do in the '60s, a long-time partner of Lee Marvin set a precedent by suing for "palimony," winning millions of precious dollars in the process.

To her mind, the years she gave Marvin amounted to a conjugal partnership—therefore, it was synonymous to marriage—ergo, she was entitled to alimony.

Okay, so he never married her. Call it palimony then? Bottom line, she was entitled to what was his while she gave him love, support and sex.—I guess!

Well, language is dynamic, right? It gains new meanings with use? Abuse, if you please.

Hollywood was adept at setting up its own rules. However, the world waited with bated breath as each fabled romance unwound. What would happen next? Marriage was sure to follow after those fiery and much publicized liaisons. But, would they last? Alack, they didn't. Divorce would inevitable follow, Hollywood style!

Mockery

Much-married celluloid stars like Gloria Swanson, Elizabeth Taylor, Joan Crawford, Lana Turner, Ginger Rogers and 'small but terrible' Mickey Rooney made a mockery of the sacrament of matrimony, decried conservatives.

Who did they think they were? Were they above the laws of Church and State? After all, weren't we ordinary mortals taught the sanctity of marriage since childhood? Didn't the vow "till death do us part" taken by cooing couples on that "day of days" turn on our romantic juices?

Many stars were to chalk up a lot of those "once in a lifetime" days. In fact, since violet-eyed Ms Taylor has garnered more than a week's worth of that day of days, one wonders if she isn't a cat! Diminutive Rooney, too! Both stated during their various marriages that each one was going to be last one. Well, promises are meant to be broken!

(To be concluded)

Adam, where art thou?

By Ramon Rey E. Bayron

GIVEN the air of political correctness nowadays, this piece ought to be really, really sensitive (read: careful) otherwise, a backlash of hate responses would not be far-fetched. Anyway, here goes.

Talented straight men who deep inside them know that they are gifted with the ability to express their thoughts in writing should immediately turn on (no pun intended) their computers and let their ideas settle on paper, have them published or, better yet, produced on television or shown on the big screen.

Worth it

No, Adam, you won't be wasting your precious time, and never mind if it would mean seeing less of those basketball games. It's definitely worth it. For one thing, there's dough to earn in writing. But that is the least noble of the various reasons to engage in writing, particularly screenwriting.

For, if more straight men become screenwriters, hopefully:

A.) Men wouldn't always be pictured so negatively, the perennial and all-too-evil son-of-a-gun!

Haven't you noticed, men in our movies are either so savage that they deserve nothing less than to be butchered themselves (remember Ricky in "Azucena"?), or greedy-to-the-bones philanderers of the worst kind (two-timing Albert in "Sidhi") who must definitely die before the film ends so hope may shine anew; or if the heroine is feeling a bit generous, a minor castration would do (yeah, tell that to Carlos in "Laro").

Lost boy

Men are seldom thought of as genuine heroes in our films, even fantasy movies. In answer to "Batman" and "Superman," there are "Dyesebel" and "Darna," with the men in the two latter movies appearing only as *syokoys* and *halimaws*. Oh yeah, there's the forever lost boy, Ding. Sigh!

B.) A more honest depiction of what it is to be father, son or brother will be played out for the audience's appreciation and education.

To loosely quote a member of the powerful and influential Lopezes during Star Cinema's victory party for the tremendous success of their matriarch-centered movie "Anak," *"Bakit lahat ng lalaki sa pelikula, mahina?"* or something to that effect.

For Hollywood's "Stand By Me," we have "Bagets."

For "A River Runs Through It," we have ___ (you fill this one, dear readers, if you can).

And the nearest equivalent we have for this decade's "The Patriot" is "Pedro Penduko"? (Heavens help us!)

C.) Our films will have more "cerebral" content, to balance the already flowing "heart" element that has turned Filipino movies all too weepy.

Think of three of the finest Filipino legal dramas.

Go on, think hard.

Harder!

Emotion

See, you can't even get past film No. 2, your film No. 1 probably being "Calvento Files, The Movie," already breakthrough material in our cinema. Fact is, emotion and its manipulation is what our films try to do best and sadly, only that.

Provoking ideas, insights, theorems, the legalities, the rules—there is a real dearth of those elements in our films. "Bayaning Third World" tried to introduce that to the Filipino audience and it got a lukewarm reception. That's how foreign to us the discussion of facts is.

That same disability is one of the factors preventing our films from becoming real world-class works of art.

Justice

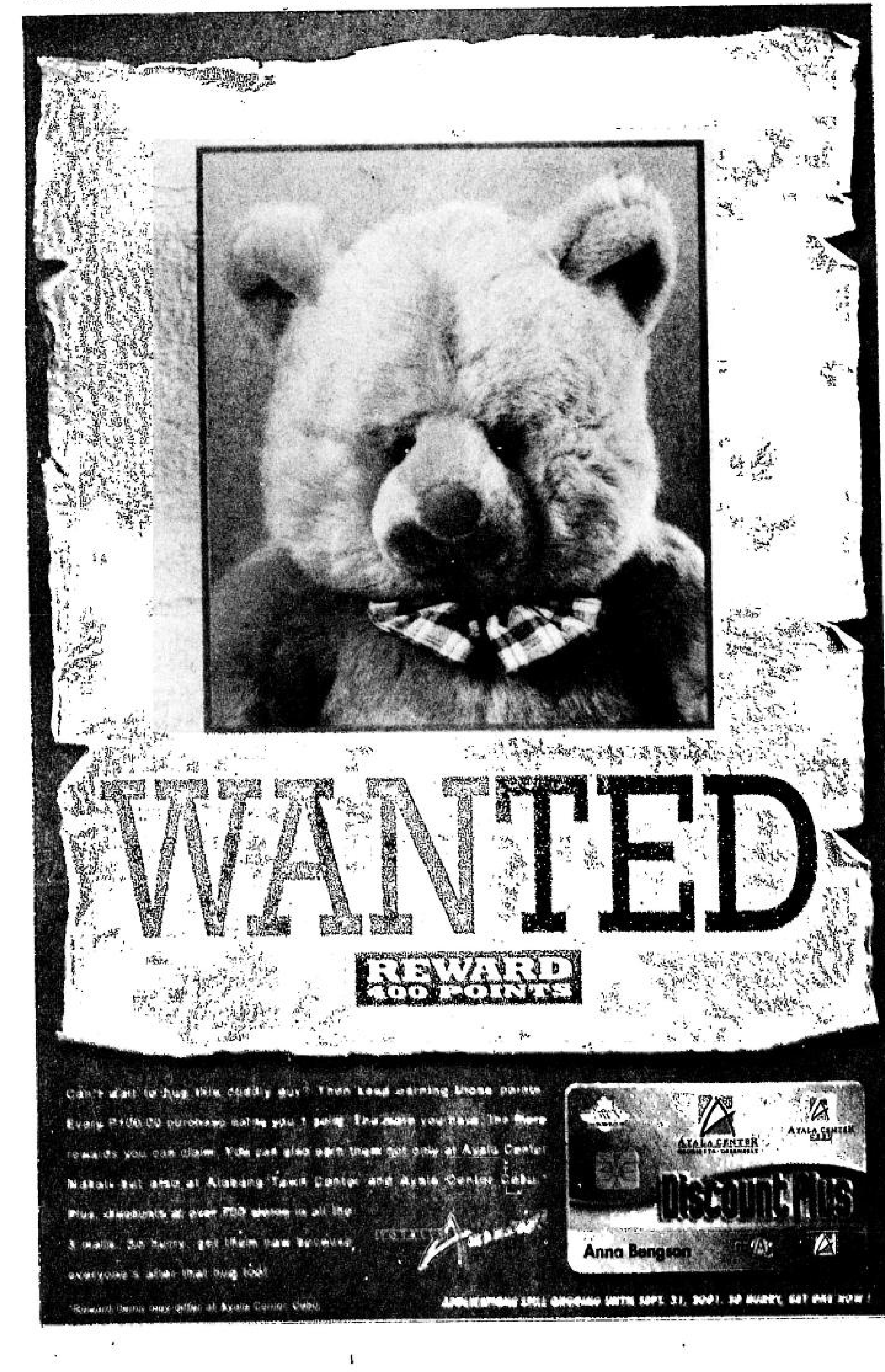
What happens when the Virgin Mother doesn't make herself appear inside the prison cell of Death Row, would the kid still get justice? If yes, how? By talking about the need for prisoners to be more affectionate? Even "Forrest Gump" wouldn't think that was enough!

Simply put, we need more of the left brain working along with the right in our movies, and scientists say it's the men who use more of the former while the women (and those who think they're women) the latter.

We repeat: There is definitely nothing wrong about the women's point of view getting its fair share of broadcast and airing. But that's precisely the point we're making: Fair is fair. We've heard and seen the X's point of view, now what about the Y's?

What is Adam thinking? How does he *really* view the world, his society and his role? What are his wants, needs, goals and desires?

Surely, even the women would want to know!



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Anna Bengson

EDNA, Myrna, Gloria, Mandy and Linda today.

Forever friends

(From page E5)

In return, she poured a bag of lipsticks on the table and all of us grabbed our share. One of us always gets more (often it's Gloria) and shares some pieces with the one who got less. We haven't changed!

We have remained very close through the years. We do not remember having quarelled painfully, keeping hurts to ourselves. Once, Edna's only brother died in a plane crash. I traced Edna's location as she was a flight stewardess for Cathay Pacific. She was in India and was told to take the first plane back to the Philippines. When Edna arrived at the airport, the four of us were waiting, but none of us wanted to be the first to greet her. We all remained quiet as we drove to the wake. We were in tears. That's how we are: each of us suffers for the other whenever one has had to shed a tear or two.

10 happy days

Five years ago, we spent 10 happy days in Bangkok—wonderful days of friendship, picture-taking (of course I'm always out of the frame, being the photographer), eating noodles and fruits—and especially, shopping.

When I think of my "Forever Friends" *barkada* I remember the movie "Beaches," where Bette Midler becomes mother to the only child of her best friend when her friend dies.

"Wind Beneath My Wings"—the song in that movie speaks of a friendship that liberates and lets one soar because it is selfless and dedicated.

Will we remain one another's wind? This column is dedicated to Gloria, Linda, Edna and Myrna. And, to our friendship!

Garlic works wonders

(From page E4)

ing garlic into your regular medical regimen.

"Garlic is a digestive aid. Use it to relieve gas and indigestion.

"Garlic may help eliminate lead from your blood. Lead can cause serious brain damage, especially in children.

"Externally, garlic is used to treat ringworm and other skin parasites.

"Rub garlic oil into your skin to soothe aching muscles.

"A few drops of garlic oil in your ear will help clear an earache.

Preparation and dosage

"Garlic products are most commonly available in commercial form as fresh cloves, capsules, tinctures and oils.

"Fresh cloves: It's the volatile oil of the raw cloves of garlic that gives them their antibiotic effect. When you take away their smell, the cloves lose their antibiotic effect. Cooked garlic loses its active ingredients. To get rid of a cold: Crush one clove of raw garlic in one teaspoon of honey and eat it. Then cover yourself up and just sweat it out. If raw garlic tastes too strong for you, try one of the following preparations instead:

"Capsules: one capsule up to three times daily.

"Tincture: ½ to one teaspoon up to four times daily.

"Oil: To make garlic oil, chop four to six cloves of garlic and heat (do not fry) in a pint of olive oil. This process extracts its active ingredients for safe and effective use.

"For colds, flu and fever, take one teaspoon garlic oil in lemon juice or water each hour.

"For earache, put two to three drops in the ear up to twice daily. For skin parasites, warts or muscular aches and pains, apply locally as needed.

General precautions

"Garlic is a safe and healthy herb. Still, all good things must be taken in moderation. There's a trick about working with raw cloves of garlic: squeezing lemon over your hands usually eliminates the odor. For garlic breath, try chewing a few aniseed or fennel seeds to freshen you mouth."

Knowing all these rich facts about garlic will certainly help all of us appreciate this very cheap and abundant medicinal health product. I've tried it and it really works wonders. I hope you too will include garlic in your health management program.

Kuh and Bituin at the Republic

MONTAGE

KUH Ledesma's Valentine show "Love is the Power" will have a repeat performance tonight at 9 at the Republic of Malate. Kuh, who shared the stage with Lani Misalucha in the original show, now teams up with Bituin Escalante. Also in the show is comedian Arnel Ignacio.

Expect an evening of romantic pop, sentimental rock, classical ballads and all-time favorites that will remind you that, indeed, there is no power greater than love.

Republic of Malate is located at 1769 A. Mabini st., Malate, Manila. For details, call 303-3529-30 or Headline Concepts at 551-7251 to 55.

'Naughty, Nutty Night'

Funny girl Marissa Sanchez and the irreverent Rico J. Puno get together in an evening of humor and beautiful music in "Naughty, Nutty Night" on March 3 at the Music Museum.

Marissa was a veteran lounge singer before she became a familiar name on TV and live acts. Rico, on the other hand, is considered one of the pioneers of OPM music, known for such hits as "Macho Guapito" and the Tagalog version of "The Way We Were."

The concert is a fundraiser of the Philippine Publishers Association and Aklat. For details, call 721-6726 or 711-5702.

Love Radio is 25

Love songs will never go out of style. No one knows this better than 90.7 Love Radio, which has been playing the best love songs that have touched the hearts of Filipinos for the past 25 years.

Love Radio's potion must be working because listeners have continuously ranked it as one of the top FM stations in Metro Manila. What is the station's secret?

"We go by one basic rule and that is to keep our listeners happy by playing songs that they like to hear. And since we've established the character of the station as Love Radio, we play nothing but songs about love and relationships," explains station manager Chito San Pedro.

Last Valentine's Day, Love Radio celebrated its 25th year on the FM band. As it starts another year, it promises to stick to its winning formula, and to even enhance it with songs that tug at the heartstrings.

'Coming Home' on Star Movies

As part of Star Movies' countdown to the Oscars, the movie channel is airing "Coming Home," starring Jane Fonda and Jon Voight on March 1 at 9 p.m.

Set in 1968, "Coming Home" looks at how three people adjust to the changes brought about by the Vietnam War. The movie won an Oscar for Best Actor (Jon Voight), Best Actress (Jane Fonda) and Best Screenplay (Waldo Salt). It was also nominated for Best Director, Best Picture, Best Film Editing, Best Supporting Actor and Best Supporting Actress.

Passionate encounter

Viva Cinema sizzles this week with the team-up of Dina Bonnevie and Gary Estrada in a love story directed by Celso Ad. Castillo, "Tag-Araw, Tag-Ulan" on Feb. 28 at 8 p.m.

The movie is about a woman running away from the pain of a breakup and a young man who is looking forward to his first sexual experience. They meet on an island resort where the heat of the sun and the cool moonlit nights evoke feelings too strong to ignore.

Jivamukti Tour, Manila

Celebrity yoga teachers to stars and models like Madonna, Sting, Sarah Jessica Parker, Cristy Turlington and Willem Dafoe arrive in Manila next week to conduct a series of yoga workshops at the Hyatt Hotel, Roxas blvd. on March 3 and 4 at 2 p.m. Call the Yoga Foundation of the Philippines at 515-1268 for tickets. Tickets are also available at selected GNC stores.

New group stages 'Noli'

Bulwagang La Vida Es Sueño, a newly-formed theater group based in downtown Manila, will stage "Jose Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" today at 3 p.m. at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center's Conference Hall. After this initial show, the company will tour various schools and universities to aid students who are studying this important Rizal novel.

RICO J. Joins Marissa Sanchez in "Naughty, Nutty Night."

In the cast are Oliver Oliveros/Jeric Batislaon as Crisostomo Ibarra, Maan Lao/Eunice Padua as Maria Clara, Marvin Aldence as Padre Damaso, Cris Valle as Elias, Agnes Llona as Doña Consolacion and Joanne Sarmiento as Sisa.

The play is written and directed by Marga Aum. For details, call 314-6079.

Teen witch

Starring Melissa Joan Hart, "Sabrina, the Teenage Witch" is a half-hour comedy about Sabrina, a normal teenager whose life turns upside down when she moves to Riverdale. Along with a new high school, new friends and new rivals, Sabrina has to make the strangest adjustment of all on her 16th birthday—inheriting magical powers and learning that she comes from a family of witches.

The series airs every Monday at 8 p.m. on Star World on Home Cable's Channel 48 and Destiny Cable's Channel 26.

(Compiled by Edmund L. Sicam)

THEY WRITE THE SCRIPTS

US TV-film screenwriters demand higher fees, better treatment

By Nestor U. Torre

IN two more months, the Writers Guild of America may stage a strike that could force TV and film production in the United States to drastically slow down or even grind to a halt.

Slings and arrows

Local TV-film writers who are used to suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous producers many not understand what the American screenwriters' beef is all about. So, when we were in the States recently on a working visit, we did some research and came up with the following:

To some people, it may seem like many American screenwriters are paid pretty well, but the writers themselves aren't happy because they feel that their fees have remained stagnant, while income from TV or film productions has gone through the roof these past few years.

Syndication

In the past, TV-film producers made their money from the telecast or screening of their productions, period. Then came TV syndication, with producers selling their shows to regional or overseas markets for a lot of additional income.

In the movies, the first extra income came from the sale of screening rights to movies on television. Then, producers made even more money when their films were sold as videocassettes. Next came cable and DVD sales.

And, in the near future, they can charge a fee when people use the Internet to download movies or TV shows from the Web.

Extra money

There's a lot of extra money involved in all of these schemes, but the writers' point is, they get too small a share of those additional profits. So, they are currently negotiating with producers for a bigger share of the financial pie.

The hope is that the issue can be settled before the writers' group contract ends this May, so TV-film production work can continue.

But there's more to the screenwriters' complaint that just money. They want to be taken more seriously by producers and directors, who tend to treat them in a cavalier if not downright demeaning manner.

Appreciation

The question is, how can greater consideration, respect and appreciation for writers and their contribution to a production be productively included in a contract?

The answer is, it can't. But the screenwriters hope that the current negotiations will send out a loud message that TV-film producers and directors can't ignore, and that they will mend their ways.

A specific request or demand on the screenwriters' part is that they be allowed access to a production while it's being shot, so they can make whatever changes are needed in the script.

Interference

In some instances, directors bar writers from their sets because they don't want to put up with any "interference" after the writing process has been completed. But the writers point out that the ideal writer-director relationship shouldn't be that antagonistic.

The American screenwriters are also asking producers to drop the "A Film by ..." credit that they usually reserve for a movie's director. They point out that filmmaking is a collaborative art and craft, so no single artist should "own" a film.

Controversy

This demand has created a lot of controversy because it runs directly counter to the "auteur" school of thought in filmmaking, which believes that the "author" of a movie is not the writer but the director, since a film is much more than its script and includes many other elements that are orchestrated by the director to bring out his "vision" for the film.

Will the negotiations prosper despite controversial sticking points like these, or will writers be forced to refuse to work when their current contract expires on May 2?

Whatever the outcome, producers are taking no chances and have been churning out extra TV episodes and advancing production work on movies slated for release during the Fall season.

Concessions

The hope is that producers and directors will grant enough concessions for the writers not to resort to work stoppage to get what they want.

We also trust that these developments in the States will prompt our local screenwriters to similarly fight for their rights.

All too often, they are given raw deals by producers and directors because they suffer from a "martyr" complex and don't know how to use their collective power to get a better deal for themselves and their colleagues in the screenwriting trade.

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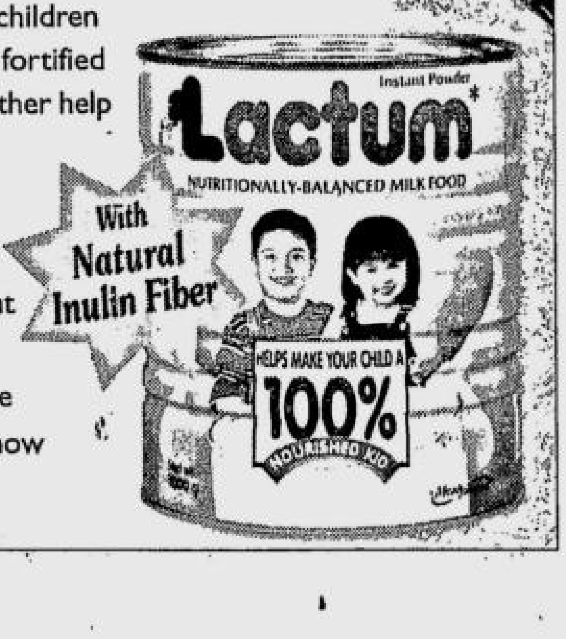
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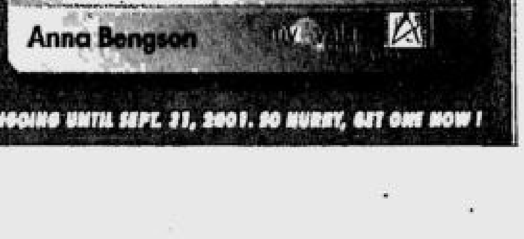

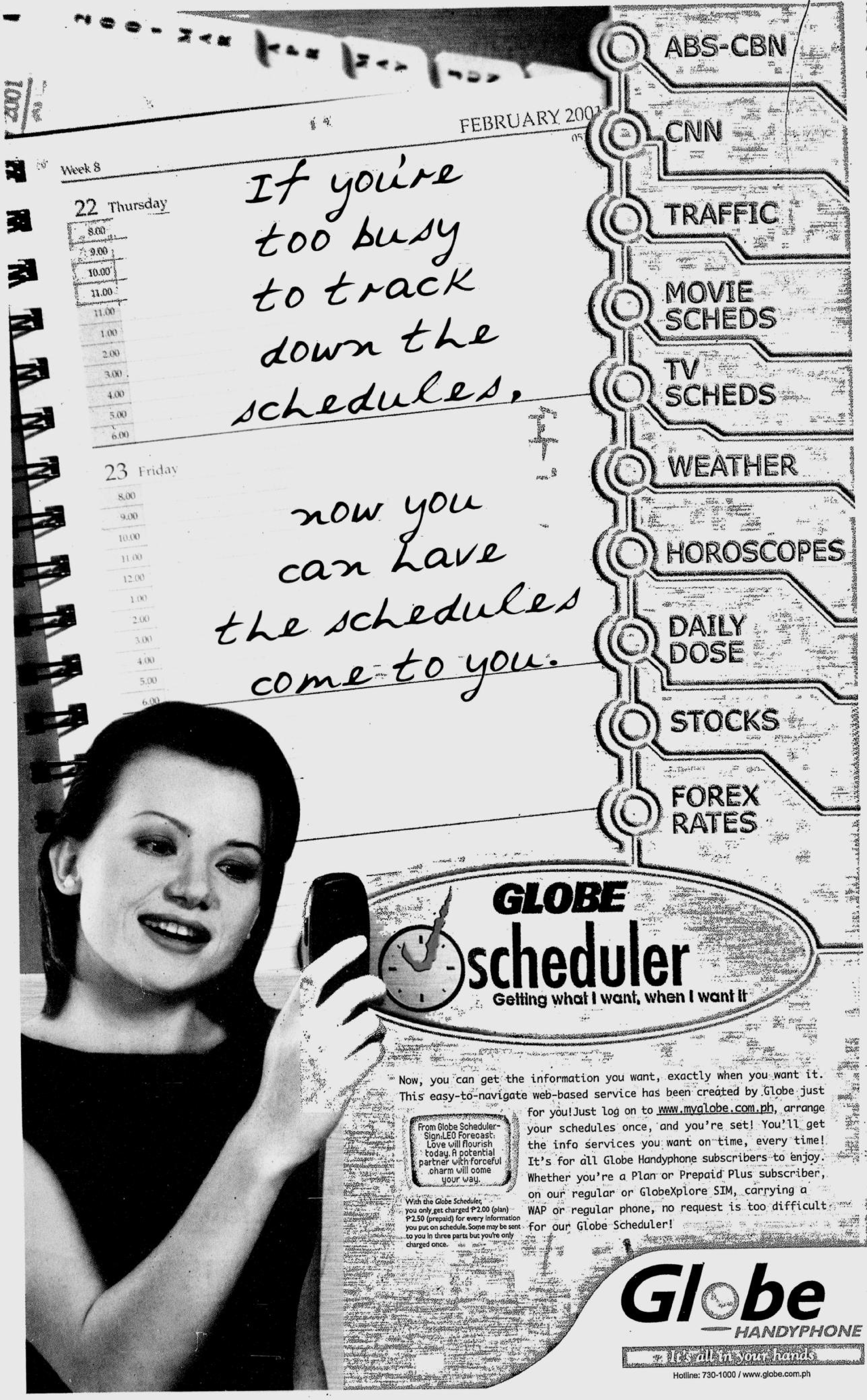
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Saturday SPECIAL

DYLAN. His rock anthem "All Along the Watchtower" was recorded by the Jimi Hendrix Experience in 1968.

Grammy Hall of Fame honors new class of pop classics

BY STEVE GORMAN

LOS ANGELES—Recording classics ranging from the Beatles' 1968 mega-hit "Hey Jude" to John Coltrane's landmark jazz composition "Giant Steps" to Louis Armstrong's raspy rendition of "Hello Dolly!" were inducted on Monday into the Grammy Hall of Fame.

Rock ballad

"Hey Jude," the seven-minute rock ballad that loosened the traditional bonds of the three-minute pop single, "Giant Steps," the title track of Coltrane's seminal 1960 Atlantic Records debut, and "Hello Dolly!" as greeted by Satchmo were among 31 recordings to receive Hall of Fame Awards this year.

Other songs inducted included Henry Mancini's movie theme "The Pink Panther," the Champs' cult pop favorite "Tequila" (1958), Hank Williams' country bright "Hey Good Lookin'" (1951) and "Please, Please, Please," as recorded by James Brown & the Famous Flames (1956), one of the earliest hits by the Godfather of Soul.

R&B genre

The R&B genre was also represented by Aretha Franklin's 1967 hit "Chain of Fools," Ray Charles' "I Can't Stop Loving You" (1962) and the Drifters' "Save the Last Dance for Me" (1960).

Singer-actress Julie London, who died last year, is honored with the induction of her 1955 hit "Cry Me a River," as was the rock group The Byrds for "Turn! Turn! Turn!" (1965).

All but two of this year's crop of inductees—jazz clarinetist Artie Shaw's 1938 recording of "Any Old Time" and James Taylor's mellow 1971 hit "You've Got a Friend"—hail from the 1950s and '60s.

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THE SUPREMES. Their contribution is "Stop! In the Name of Love" (1965).

Grammy Hall . . .

(From page F1)

Among them are the Bob Dylan's rock anthem "All Along the Watchtower," as performed by the Jimi Hendrix Experience (1968), "California Dreamin'" by the Mammas and the Papas (1966), Johnny Cash'' gritty "Folsom Prison Blues" (1956) and the Supremes' Motown classic "Stop! In the Name of Love" (1965).

Armstrong received two mentions—one for "Hello Dolly!" and the other for his collaboration with Ella Fitzgerald on the 1968 album "Porgy and Bess."

Jazz albums "Moanin'" (1957) by drummer Art Blakey, "In a Silent Way" (1969) by trumpet great Miles Davis and "Chet Baker Sings" (1956) also made the cult.

The new list brings to 530 the number of titles inducted since the trustees of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences established the Hall of Fame in 1973. The Hall of Fame recognizes recordings—both singles and albums—of enduring artistic quality or historical significance.

The Beatles remain one of the most honored acts in the Hall of Fame with two entries in this year's list—the single "Hey Jude" and their 1964 album "Meet the Beatles!"

In addition to "Giant Steps," Coltrane figures prominently on the album inductee "Monk's Music" (1957), in which legendary jazz pianist-composer Thelonius Monk plays with two saxophone masters—Coltrane and Coleman Hawkins.

Reuters

Freestyle's Totop Suzara pens a hit song

BY ARNOLD RIMON MARTINEZ

Till I Found You

(Lyrics and music by Totop Suzara)

I was alone not long ago
Without a love to call my own
I was afraid and thought
It wasn't meant for me.

I didn't need anybody else
That was what I would tell my self
And I believed that
That was how it would be.

Refrain:
I used to think that I was fine, oh
That I was doing okay
I didn't know that I was blind
I just went on along my way.

I didn't know what I was missin'
Till I felt your tender lips
Kissin' my fears away
I'm so glad you're here today.

Chorus:
I never had somebody I could lean on
I never had a shoulder I could cry on
Till I found you babe,
Till I found you …

And I never had somebody I would think about
I never had someone I couldn't do without
Till I found you babe
Till I found you.

I had been badly hurt before
Ever since then I would ignore
Any chance for love
I thought it was a lie.

I learned to rely upon myself
And I thought that I was doin' well
Until you came with something
I just can't deny.

Refrain:
I used to think that I was fine, oh
That I was doin' alright
I would go on and do my thing
Everyday and every night.

I didn't know what I was missin'
Till I felt your tender love
Fillin' me up inside
I love you with all my might.

(Repeat Chorus)

End:
And I never knew how good love could feel
Until I found you babe,
And I never thought that love could be so real
Until I found you.

THE GUY who wrote this song is a romantic. That's how he came across as he shared the story behind the song "Till I Found You."

"The story of this song is about finally finding the right person for yourself," Totop Suzara explained. "When you never even thought that such a person existed or that kind of a relationship was possible, *hindi mo alam na mayroon ganoong kagandang pagsasama na tipong* she's a sister, your brother, your best friend, all in one. The song celebrates relationships that are like that."

Totop or Christopher Gabriel Suzara is Freestyle's in-house composer and band member. He admitted that "Till I Found You" was one of those songs inspired by real-life experiences. But he wasn't keen on sharing who this special someone was. But he shared that the one who inspired him was his soulmate.

Excitement

His eyes shone with excitement as he said, "We have the same ideas. *Pareho kami mag-isip. Hindi na nga kami nagugulat na sabay kaming nagsasalita na pare-parehong* out of the blue. *Kahit hindi kami magkasama*, when she feels bad, I know, and when I feel bad, she knows. Even if I don't show it," she knows."

Just like any song coming from real-life experiences, "Till I Found You" has appealed to a number of young listeners. This may be the reason why some of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila's Masscom students voted this song as number one on their list.

SUZARA. Finding the right person.

As a composer, we may think that Totop is a graduate of a conservatory of music or the related arts. He revealed, however, that far from that hunch, he got a degree in Human Resource Management from De La Salle's College of St. Benilde. And, before that, he had a short stint at DLSU Dasmariñas, Cavite, where he took BS Biology! We may wonder how on earth he landed in Freestyle!

Unplanned

Totop's getting into a band was unplanned. He would hang around with cousins Richard Suzara (another Freestyle member) and Bolichie Suzara (of First Circle) and they would play rock music. But the time came when their parents threatened to sell or throw out their instruments if they continue playing rock. They decided to hum a different tune—the great '60s, songs by Elvis, the Ventures, Shadows and Beatles.

"When did I learn? When Richard started. I expressed my interest and my dad got my first guitar from the *manlalako sa kalye* for P300, so I practiced."

He was then 15. He strummed new wave, a little jazz, Earl Klugh, George Benson. But he confessed that he had a hard time playing the guitar.

"Hirap na hirap ako noon," he said. *"Pag may naririnig akong magaling, bilib na bilib ako."*

Totop explained that he had no formal training in music. In fact, when he writes songs, he writes them in chords and not in notes.

"But I hear what I want. *Puro oido kasi* I have no formal training. I keep on listening and I get to know the song. *Basta, lagi akong* attracted *sa* melody *ng kanta,"* he says.

As Totop's music got noticed, his band, Freestyle, slowly made waves. Like South Border, First Circle, Joey Ayala's group and others, Freestyle saw the stars of the music industry in Davao.

Temporary name

Richard, Totop's cousin, named the group Freestyle when they had an "emergency" gig. He got the name from a recording magazine. It was meant as a temporary name, but it stuck.

At first, Totop was not involved with the band since he was really based in Manila. However, when he got to visit Davao, he would join his cousins and friends hanging around a studio that Richard ran. There, they would play music together.

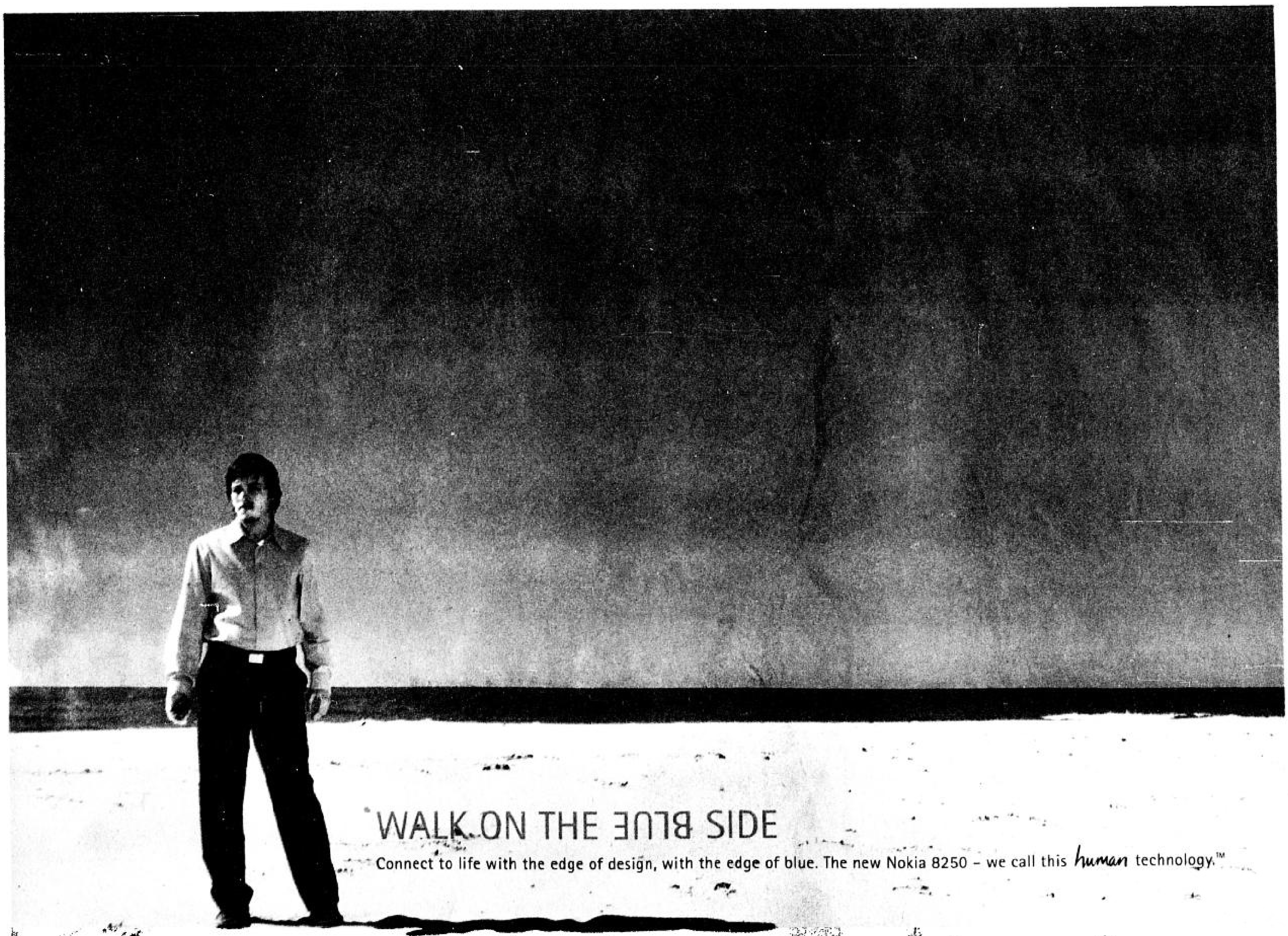
"*Magti*-trip *kami sa* studio. *Tutugtog kami roon*. Then we decided to start a band, just for kicks. Richard said, *baka puwede nating i*-record. Then when I went back to Manila, Richard would call and tell me *na pinatugtog sa mga* station *sa* Davao *yung* songs *namin*, and that people requested them."

Contract

Not long after, they got a contract with Viva Records. Their first album with its carrier single "Before I Let You Go," gathered awards and accolades for the group.

Through all this, Totop maintained that, away from music scene, they are still normal people. At least, in this career, he gets to enjoy his music and earn at the same time. He confessed that one of his inspirations to make it good is his daughter, Gabby.

He said, "In any song I write, romantic or not, I think about my special someone, my family, but especially my daughter Gabby. She's my angel. I strive for my future not only for myself but especially for her!"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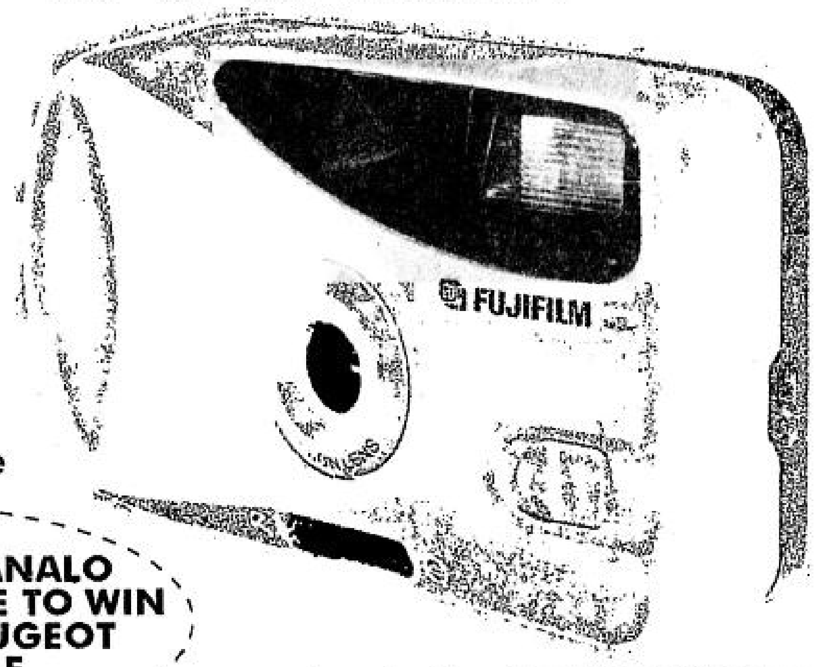

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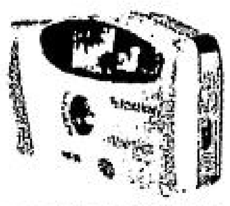

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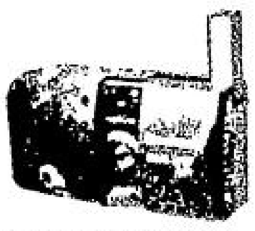

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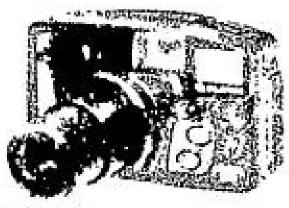

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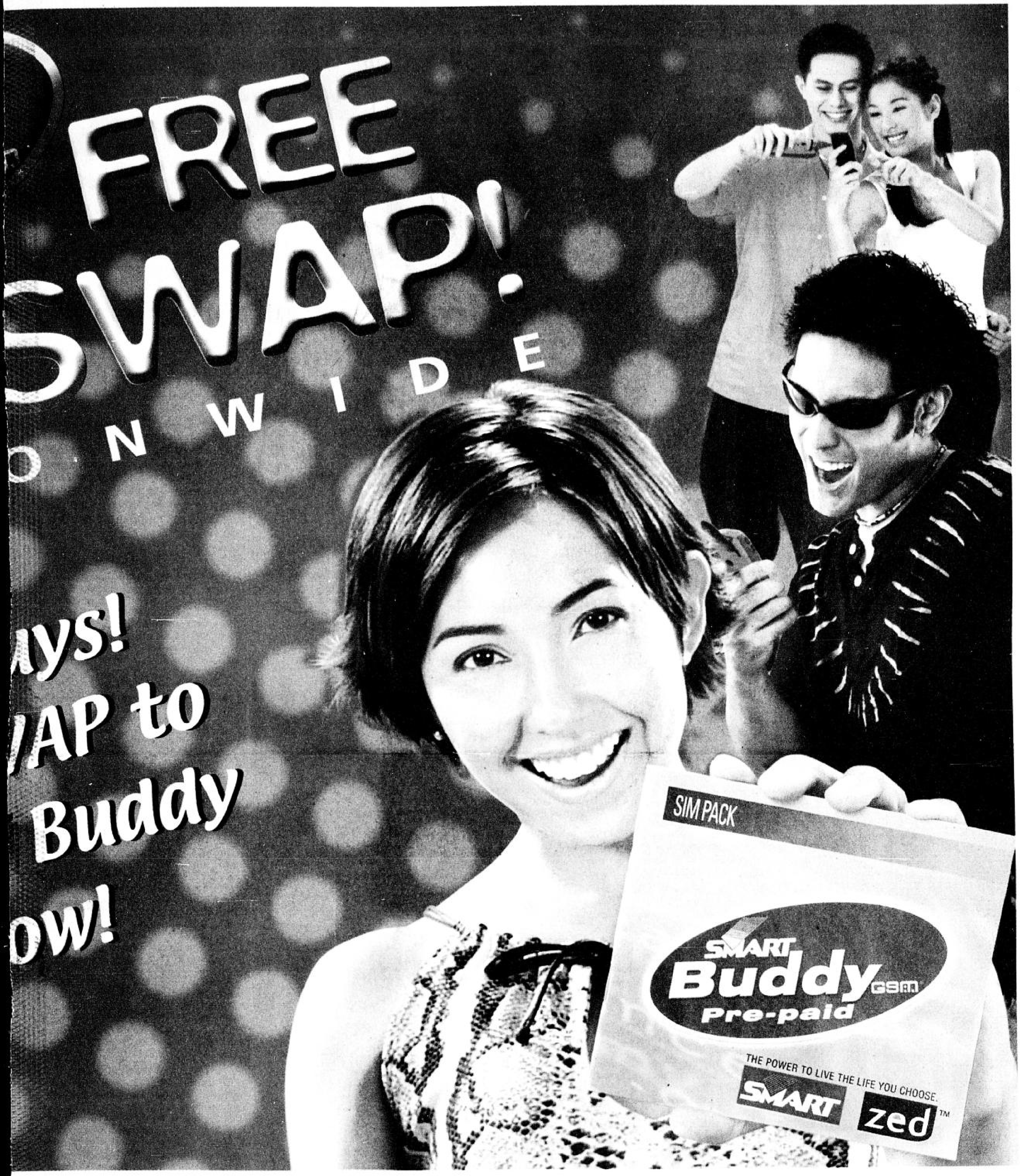

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		Student Council	Election of SC	Mar. 1 to 2	Campus
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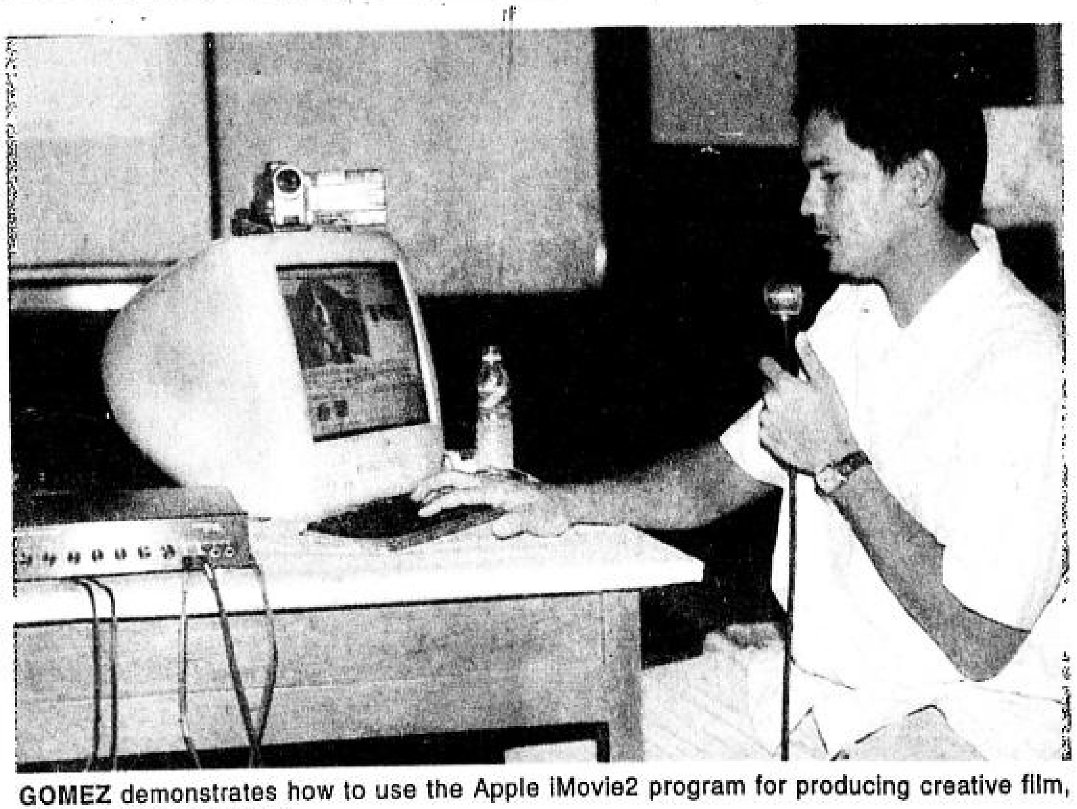


GOMEZ demonstrates how to use the Apple iMovie2 program for producing creative film, video and other visuals.

GOMEZ (right) and Charlie Tang listen to a presentation.

Richard Gomez introduces new TV-film technology to schools

By Veron Dionisio

WHEN we look at Richard Gomez, we ask ourselves, what else can this man do? What more challenges could he possibly face? Most everything he ventures into becomes a success: a celebrity golf tournament, a motocross race, a line of men's clothes, a productive film and television career, an almost-perfect marriage, etc.

Blessings

But one thing is sure: He never stops learning. He works very hard to hone his skills. And he gives back part of the blessings he's received.

Recently, Richard was chosen by Apple Philippines as one of two representatives of the country to the Applemasters Program called 2+2+2+2, held in November last year in Singapore. After a four-day training on the use of Apple's iMovie2 software, Richard was bestowed the title of an Applemaster. The other representative was CJ da Silva.

Richard recalls: "During the training, we were given $20 to shoot a two-minute film, using shots taken for two hours around Singapore, and then edit the film for two days. We used the iMovie software for this."

Software

Having experienced how the software facilitated the production of video and/or short film, Richard immediately thought of sharing the experience with other film students. What better way to start than introducing the technology to his former school, the state university?

True to that intent, Richard recently introduced the new technology, the iMovie2 software, to students not just from UP but from other educational institutions as well. During the presentation, Richard's skills in filmmaking, a result of his long experience as an actor and his film directing course from the New York University, worked to his advantage.

He demonstrated how iMovie2 works efficiently and with ease. As he placed images and film clips in the computer downloaded photos from the digital camera, and created a narrative, we realized that he was doing something closest to his heart, his passion: creating films.

Presentation

Towards the end of the presentation, Richard donated the two iMac computers he got as an Applemaster to UP's College of Mass Communication. Unknown to many, the two iMac computers were not Richard's first contributions to UP College of Mass Com. A few years back, he funded the setting up of editing facilities and donated a number of television sets to the film department.

Arminda Santiago, chair of UP Film Department and Richard's former professor in photography, says: "Richard has always been very helpful. We have never asked him for anything but he gives freely and openly."

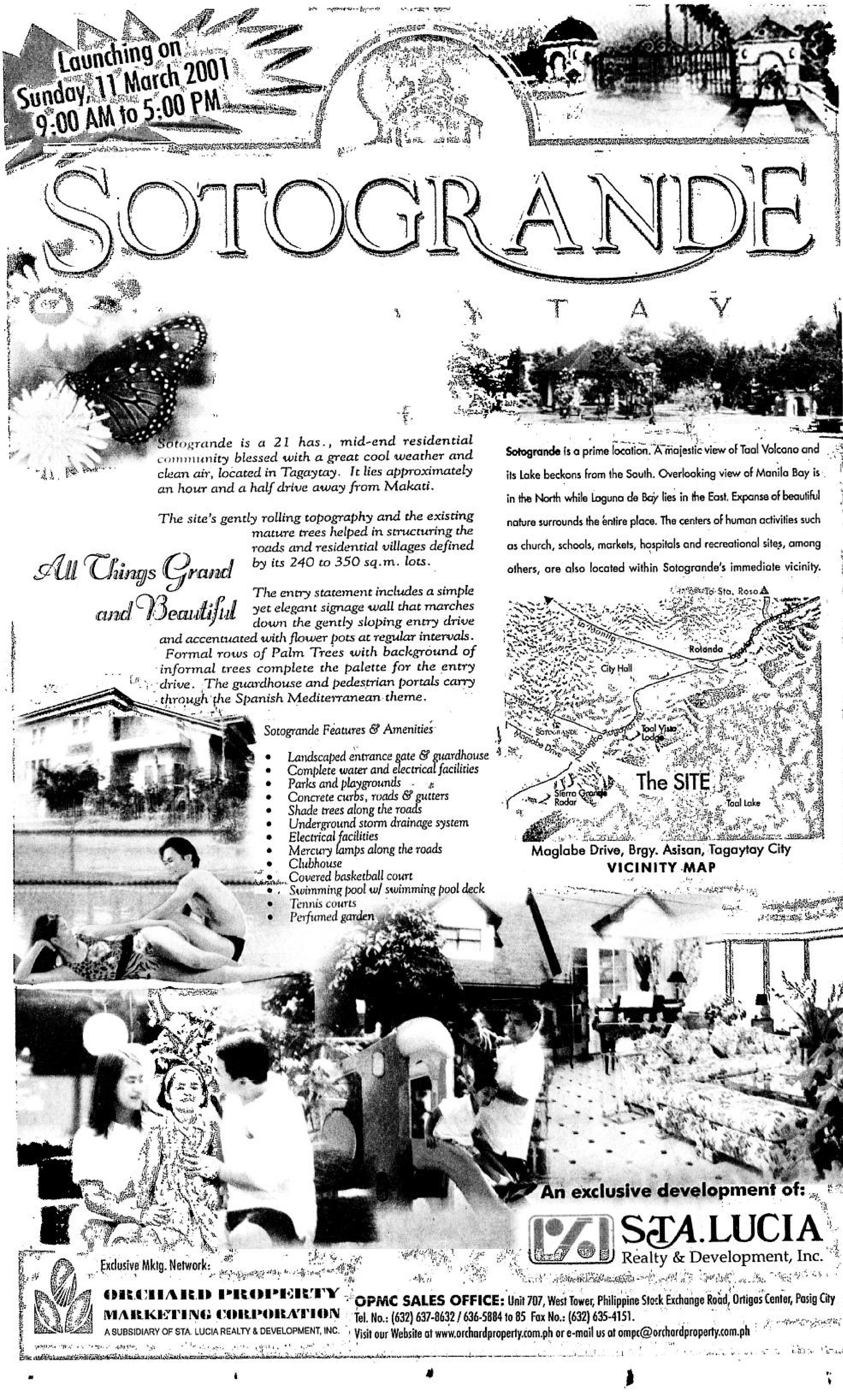
We noticed the absence of the press at the event, so we realized the occasion was not for publicity purposes. Richard wanted to do it quietly and discreetly. The more important thing for him is, he is able to help the younger generation find avenues through which they can explore their creativity and develop their leadership potentials.

Skills

The multi-awarded actor also believes that the way to improve our film industry is to start honing the skills of future filmmakers. For Richard, schools should provide not just the theoretical grounding in creating worthy films, but effective hands-on facilities as well.

Because Richard believes that what he had in NYU would be next to impossible to duplicate here, he hopes that iMovie2 would greatly help film students in completing their projects. He shares: "In NYU, we had all sorts of 16mm cameras, from the basic super 16 to the most advanced reflex SR16. And everyday we shot with all those cameras. Here, it would be so expensive to set that up."

Richard may not be as visible as he used to on the big screen. However, his desire to share not just his talent but of himself gives a new dimension to his popularity.



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Studio 23 captures the youth TV market

BY JOCELYN VALLE

WHEN ABS-CBN concentrated on airing local programs to successfully corner the *masa* audience in 1996, the decision didn't mean the network giant was letting go of peso-rich A-B viewers. Instead, the media conglomerate set up the UHF channel called Studio 23 to keep fans of canned foreign shows like "Murphy Brown" and "The Nanny" interested.

Survey

Smart move. Based on the Year 2000 Trends Viewership and Lifestyle Study, Studio 23 is the TV channel favored by teens and college students, and also the fourth most regularly-watched station, just behind Channels 2, 7 and HBO. Next to the premier movie channel, according to the same survey, Studio 23 is the best station for English shows and likewise has the most class.

—Well, thanks to hit shows like "Dawson's Creek," "Charmed," "West Wing," "Will and Grace," "Survivor" and "Oprah!" Their popularity in the States excites some local viewers, who can't wait to find out what it is about them that keeps Americans glued to their TV sets.

But as much as Studio 23's managing director, Manuel P. Quiogue, would like his station to carry all the top-raters, it can't. Just like any other station, Studio 23 goes through the standard procedure in acquiring rights to American TV programs.

From late May to early June, shares Quiogue, he goes to Los Angeles with Leo Katigbak, Studio 23's vice president for acquisitions, archives and programming, to scout for new titles. Quiogue and Katigbak watch around five programs a day, and take note of the ones they want to acquire.

Best bidder

They can't buy the rights outright, though. The shows' producers or their representatives will have to check out the purchasers' offices first, making sure that they cut the deal with the best bidder.

And you don't buy a single show, Quiogue discloses. The producers offer a package that mixes their bestsellers with their lemons. (That explains why unknown shows still find their way to the local TV screen.)

"It's a gamble," Quiogue points out. "We're buying shows even if we don't know if they'll last." What are shown at the LA screenings, adds Quiogue, are debuting programs that may or may not click with viewers. Worse, the series may turn out to be a dud and won't last the regulation 22 episodes to complete a season.

Quiogue cites the youth program "Relativity" as an example. They had high hopes for the series to attract the *bagets* crowd and even went all-out promoting it, only for the show to be suddenly cancelled in the States.

Sometimes, however, they hit the jackpot. For instance, the award-winning political drama, "West Wing." Athough veteran actor Martin Sheen plays one of its leads, publicity for the series was minimal until the critics spoke and the award-giving bodies took notice.

Primary audience

Most of the time, Quiogue and Katigbak look for programs that cater to Studio 23's primary audience, the youth. They buy shows that are geared towards an older age group only if they feel that the humor is acceptable to Filipinos.

Quiogue observes that not all topraters in the States replicate their success here. "7th Heaven" is big abroad but is only a moderate hit here. Quiogue reveals that local advertisers used to snub the series, which is known for its wholesome appeal, until the station reminded them of their commitment to good TV shows.

He also notes that studios and producers are very cooperative with Studio 23. Quiogue singles out Oprah Winfrey as the most helpful. The host-actress has pretaped greetings (for anniversaries and holidays) that will last the whole year through.

New shows

A lot of new shows are slated to premiere on Studio 23, including comedy series "Bette," "Grapevine," "News From the Edge," "Grosse Pointe" and "Oh Grow Up" and drama programs "Gilmore Girls," "Young Americans," "The Street," "Jack & Jill" and "Titans."

"YOUNG AMERICANS" is only one of the new drama programs on Studio 23.

Fans of the supernatural should look forward to "Angel" and "The Others." The former is not unlike "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" because the shows have been created by the same people.

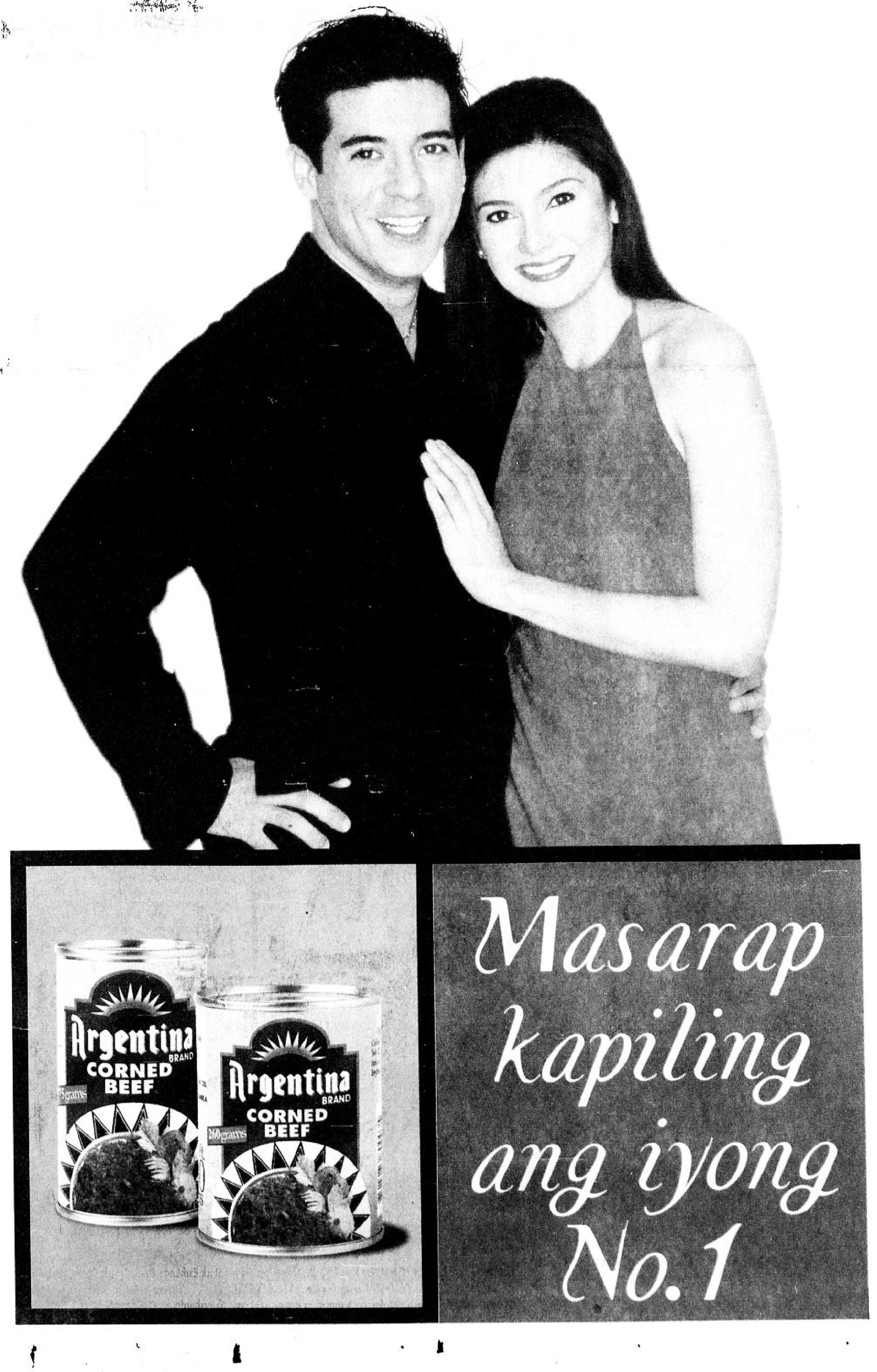
The producer/writer team of "The Others" may have been behind some episodes of "The X-Files" but don't expect the same results. The new show has some elements of "The Sixth Sense" and "What Lies Beneath" but lacks strong characterizations like that of Mulder and Scully's.

Studio 23's local programs are likewise noteworthy: "Guide to Urban Living," "Points of View," "News Central," "Game Plan," "Digital Tour" and "Explorer," which will soon be replaced by "e-co."

And, though "MTV" has found another home in the Philippines, music hasn't stopped playing on Studio 23. It has created its own music video program called "MYX."

"BETTE." The Divine Ms. M stars in her own sitcom.

NEW comedy shows like "Grosse Pointe" are slated to premiere soon on ABS-CBN's UHF channel.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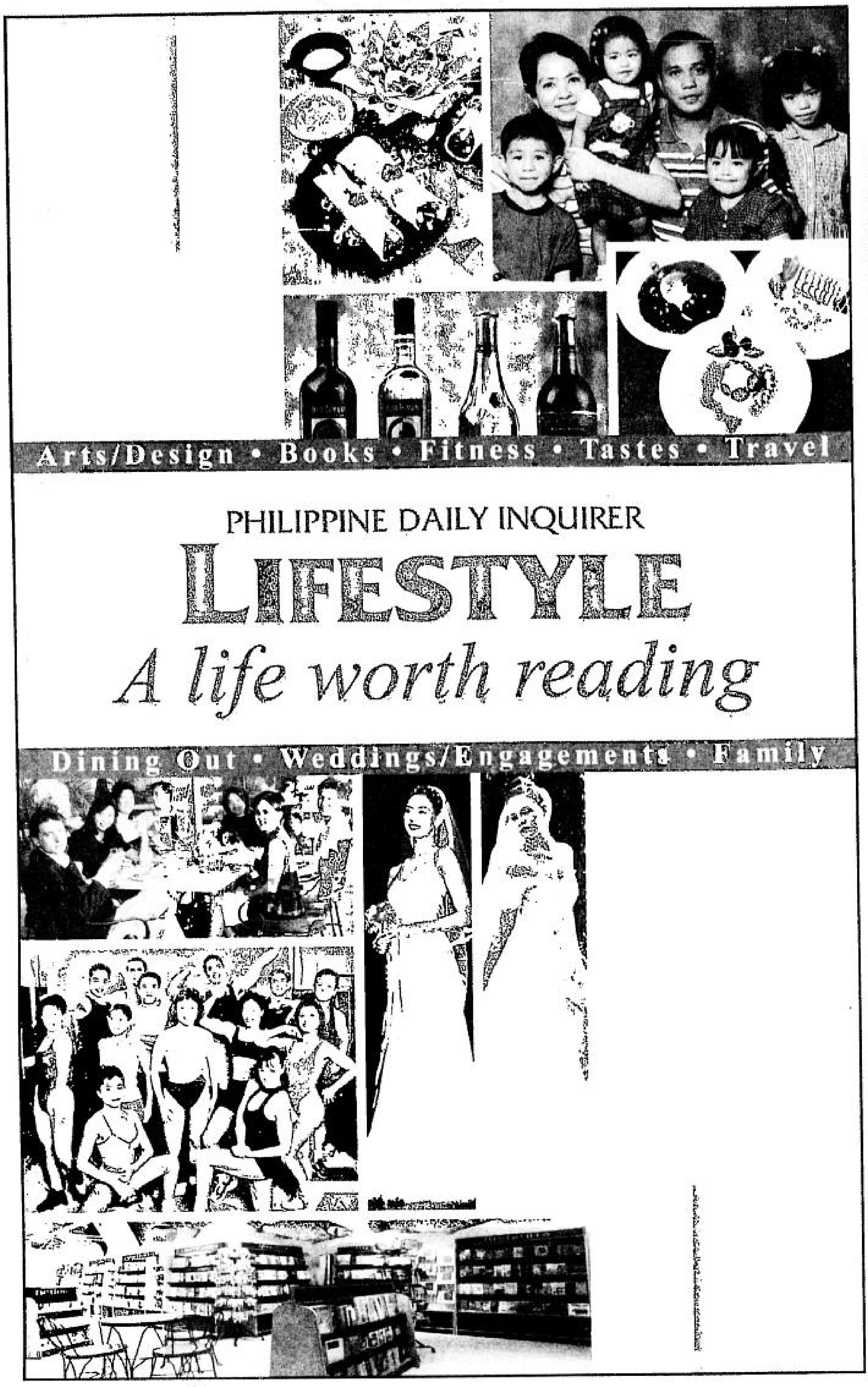
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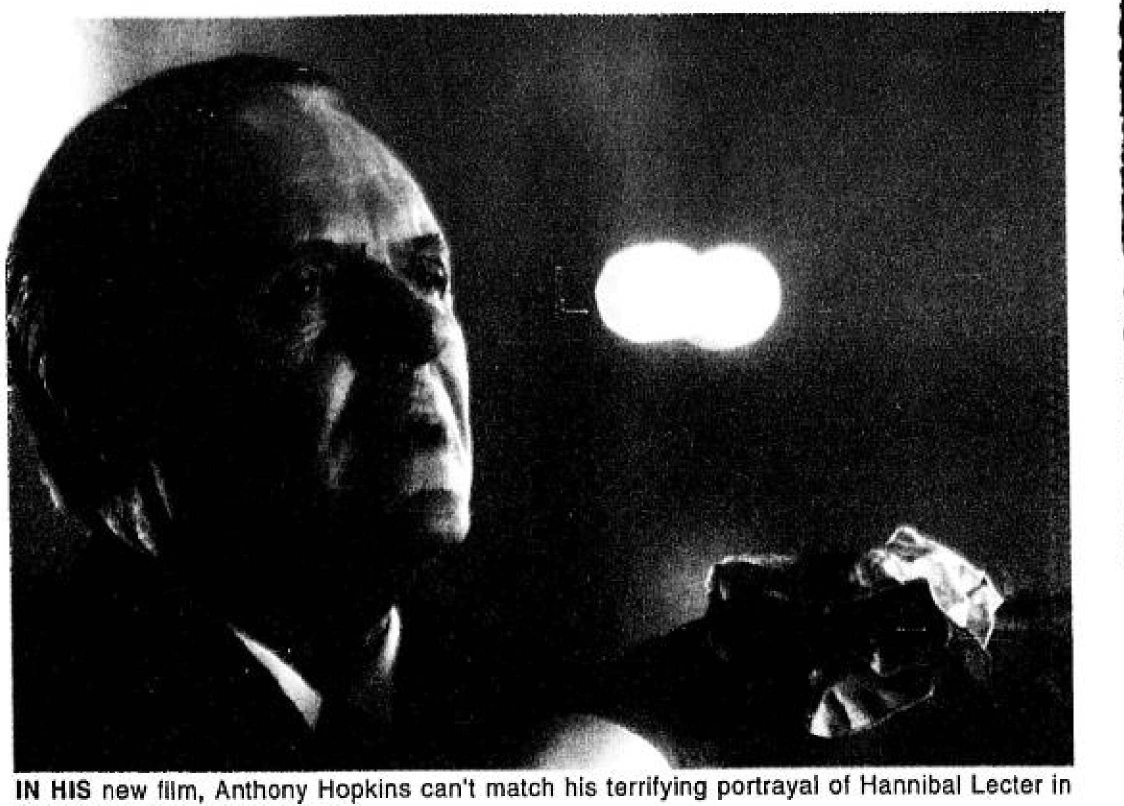


IN HIS new film, Anthony Hopkins can't match his terrifying portrayal of Hannibal Lecter in "The Silence of the Lambs."

'Hannibal' lacks predecessor's bite

By David Germain

LOS ANGELES—Hannibal Lecter is tanned, rested and ready. And a bit dull and dowdy compared to our last encounter with him.

Dare we wax crudely metaphoric and say that "Hannibal" lacks the bite of its 1991 predecessor, "The Silence of the Lambs"?

Lush, showy direction

Under Ridley Scott's lush, showy direction, it's still a decent enough flick, as grisly thrillers go. But this time, Anthony Hopkins' serial killer extraordinaire comes across as something of a milquetoast, gumming his way along instead of chomping down with those celebrated canines.

Gone is the sense of caged-animal frenzy that bubbled beneath Lecter's calm exterior while in captivity in the first film.

Gone are those delectable morsels of dialogue about fava beans and Chianti and cheap shoes, the delicious "quid pro quo" exchanges with FBI agent Clarice Starling, the manic "tick-tock, tick-tock" as Lecter maliciously counted down the waning time a victim had to live.

This time out, we get a dapper Hannibal Lecter whose menace comes more from the memory of how chilling he was in the previous film than from anything he does this time.

Lecter does do plenty of slicing and dicing in "Hannibal," and very, very gruesomely in the film's closing moments.

Reaction

But his violence is mostly a reaction to dastardly deeds others try to do to him. He appears at his most dangerous in a handful of flashbacks depicting past atrocities.

And his choicest quote is nothing more than the amusingly ominous, "Okey-dokey," which he utters on two occasions.

"Hannibal" picks up eight years after Lecter's escape in "The Silence of the Lambs." As Starling, Julianne Moore subs for Jodie Foster, who declined to reprise the role.

While Lecter sets himself up in a comfy academic post in Florence, Italy, Starling has grown embittered over bureaucratic backstabbing in the FBI.

Her career sabotaged by a Justice Department sleaze (Ray Liotta), Starling winds up a pawn in a plot for vengeance by Mason Verger (Gary Oldman, unrecognizable beneath his makeup), horribly disfigured by Lecter years earlier.

Middling suspense

The performances are uniformly fine but unspectacular. There's middling suspense as Lecter's and Starling's paths gradually converge, highlighted by a creepy moment when she dials the phone and unexpectedly hears Hannibal the Cannibal ask, "Is this Clarice?"

Compared to "Silence of the Lambs," such titillating moments are scarce. Until the brutish ending, whose tone has been radically altered from the conclusion of Thomas Harris' novel, "Hannibal" is fairly faithful to the book. Therein lies the problem for the movie.

The story line of "Hannibal" is far less interesting than "Silence of the Lambs" and lacks the emotional subtlety of its predecessor.

On top of that, Scott excises some key internal factors detailed in the novel about forces that shaped the characters—in Starling's case, the loss of her father, in Lecter's, the horrible death of his sister.

Slick surface action

What's left is slick surface action with little of the fascinating character interplay that helped "Silence of the Lambs" win best-picture honors plus Oscars for Hopkins, Foster and director Jonathan Demme.

Like Scott's "Gladiator," "Hannibal" is visually and aurally sumptuous, powered by Hans Zimmer's lovely score and brimming with the flashy imagery Scott is known for in his commercials.

It's a striking contrast to Demme's simple, straight-ahead style on "Silence of the Lambs." Side by side, the two movies are a great case study that a good yarn doesn't need a lot of cinematic embellishment, while the richest of production values cannot elevate a so-so story to greatness.

AP

Italian censorship disturbs distributor

ROME—Following protests concerning the unrestricted Italian release of Ridley Scott's thriller, "Hannibal," a local distributor has denounced the double standards of Italy's state censorship commission.

Discrepancy

Fledgling arthouse banner Teodora Film has pointed up a discrepancy between the board's liberal position on screen violence and its rigidly conservative stance on sexual themes.

Case in point is Teodora's Spanish comedy-drama "Krampack," a story of friendship between two sexually curious teenage boys, one of whom reveals his physical desire for the other. The picture was given a mature-audience tag, limiting admission to those 14 and over.

Sexual diversity

"This is another example of the sexophobia and homophobia that reigns in the censorship commission," said Teodora boss Vieri Razzini. "The board prevents minors from being made aware in any way of sexual diversity, while it clears even the most extreme violence without hesitation."

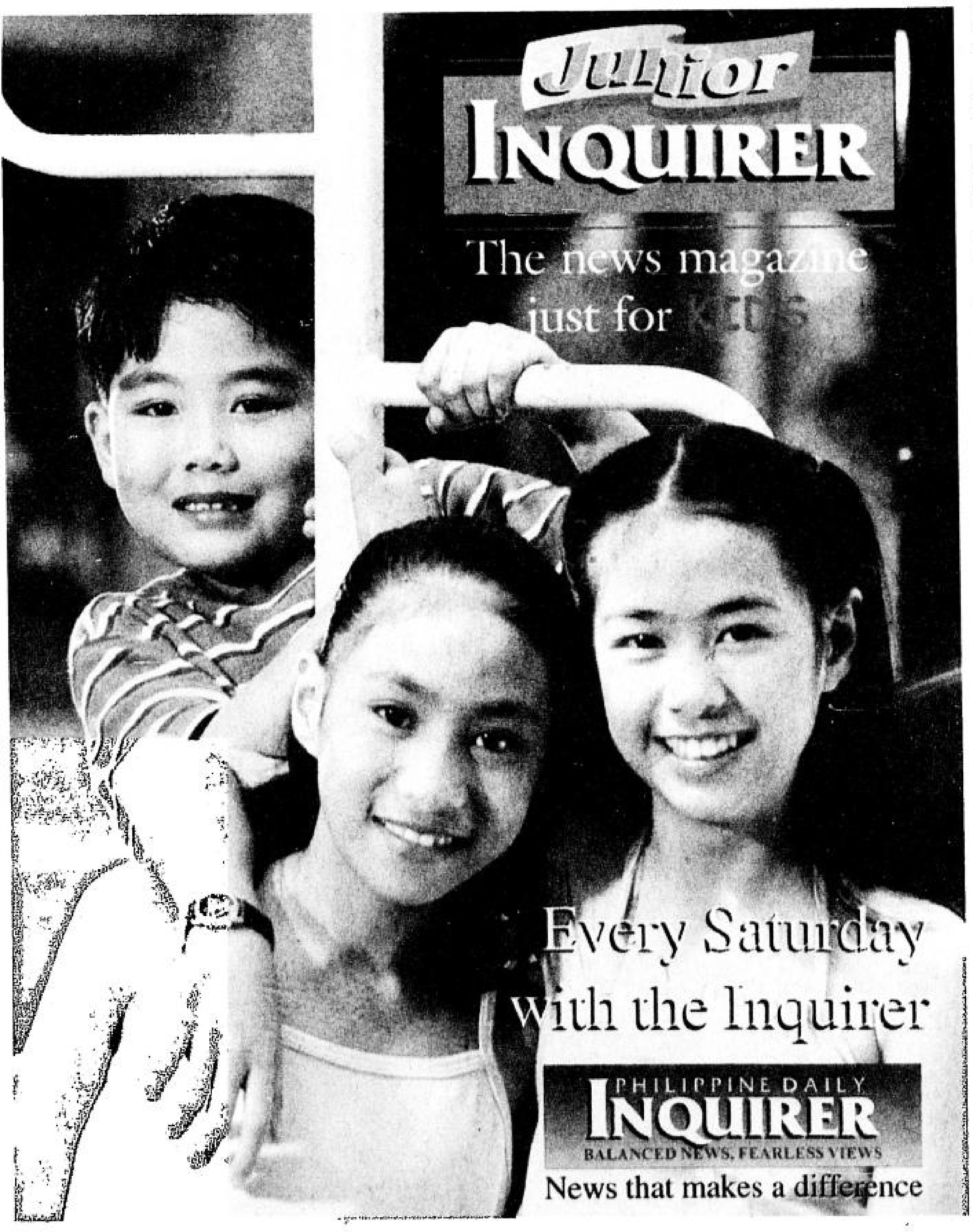
Teodora began an exclusive two-screen Italian engagement of "Krampack" on Jan. 31, with an opening-week average per engagement bested only by fellow newcomer "Meet the Parents."

Complaints

In response to complaints from parental associations unleashed by the unrestricted "Hannibal" release, Italian distributor Filmauro advised movie theaters to refuse admission to moviegoers under 14. Teodora has taken the opposite approach, appealing to theaters to ignore the restriction and admit all ages.

Exhibitors appear unlikely to go against the censors' rulings—in the case of "Hannibal," it would mean limiting their admissions without an official veto; in the case of "Krampack," risking fines for disregarding a government rating.

Reuters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Saturday SPECIAL

KRISTINE feels secure inside her bedroom and living room.

Kristine describes herself as a simple, sincere, moody homebody. She tinkers with her computer, watches TV and movies or listens to CDs at home

MAGAZINE covers adorn one side of her living room.

SUNFLOWER motif keeps Kristine's home bright.

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At home with Kristine Hermosa

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

YOUNG actress Kristine Hermosa shares that she feels safe and secure inside her bedroom and living room at her townhouse in Loyola Heights, Quezon City. Her bedroom is filled with Winnie the Pooh stuff, from the phone and bedsheets, to pillows and towels. On the other hand, older sister Kathleen's room is filled with Hello Kitty doodads.

House chores

Kristine describes herself as a simple, sincere, moody homebody. She tinkers with her computer, watches TV and movies or listens to CDs at home. She also does regular house chores like dishwashing and sweeping the floor.

Exploring her closet reveals that she loves wearing the latest fashions from Mango. But she swears that she was a "*manang*" when she chaperoned her older sister, Kathleen to an audition for "Ang TV." Yet in spite of her unflattering outfit, Kristine was called back to ABS-CBN.

"I was 12 years old. *Sobrang* conservative *at* shy *ko noon*. I always wore long-sleeved shirts. *Mabuti ngayon nakakapagsuot na ako ng* sleeveless *at* tank tops. *Kahit paano, marunong na akong mag-ayos. Pero* conservative *pa rin ang* values *ko*," Kristine smiles.

Strict

Her parents might be strict and overprotective but she takes everything in stride. Her mom scolds her when she's late for her appointments and overspends on clothes. Sometimes though she feels bad when her Mom doesn't allow her to go shopping.

"*Minsan nagtatampo ako kapag hindi ako nakakapag*-shopping *kasi pinaghirapan ko naman ang pera ko. Pero naiintindihan ko rin naman na gusto niyang makaipon ako at magkaroon ako ng disiplina sa paggastos*," Kristine sighs.

Aside from being a shop-a-holic, she's also a big eater. She has never gone on a diet and loves seafood, but avoids certain types of fish because of the smell. She goes to the gym three times a week. "*Hindi ako nagpapapayat*. I work out to gain weight," she says.

Looking around their living room and dining room, we see that sunflowers are sporadically sprinkled everywhere, on chair designs, picture frames, bowls and figurines. The sunflowers give a warm and cozy feel to the place.

Magazine covers and photos of Kristine adorn one side of the living room, proof of her family's pride and support. Kristine feels grateful and blessed because her family loves her in spite of her tantrums and mood swings.

Hassles

"*May umaga kasi na pangit ang gising ko, tapos ang sungit-sungit ko*. Bad trip *din ako kapag maraming* hassles *yung araw ko*. I hate it when I have the whole day planned, and then I can't do everything that I set out to do.

"*Ayoko yung may sumisingit sa mga plano ko. Kapag wala akong magawa, mahilig akong mag-isip at mag*-imagine. *Lahat yata ng* Virgo *ganoon*," Kristine shares.

It's ironic that her worst trait is her quick temper and her best trait is her patience. She can endure the long hours of taping and shooting. She considers her vampire role in "Oka Tokat" and her part in the action movie "Hostage" with Cesar Montano as memorable because they were something new.

"*Kung magiging* invisible *ako, gusto kong puntahan yung mga* fantasy movies *na pinapanood ko lang. Gusto kong maging* fairy *sa isang* fantasy movie," Kristine grins.

Favorite movies

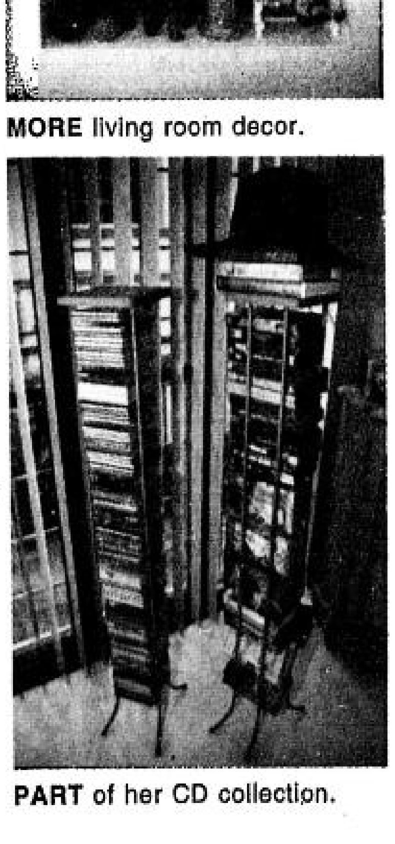
Her favorite movies are "Practical Magic" and "Final Destination." She also enjoys heartwarming and romantic movies like "Mulan," "Notting Hill," "Sleeping Beauty," "Cinderella," "Ghost" and "Runaway Bride." She prefers suspense-horror movies like "Red Planet" and "Thirteen Days" to action films like "Speed" and "True Lies."

If she wins the lotto someday, she plans to buy her own bachelor's pad, a single detached home for her family, and a brand new car for herself. Then she'll save the rest of the money.

Right now, she's already saving a portion of her earnings to put up her own business. "The type of business that I want is not yet clear. I have ideas but I still want to finish college first," she hedges.

She loves to draw and paint, so she might take up Fine Arts in a university here or abroad. But acting is another passion so she's also considering a course in Mass Communications. Five years from now, she'll either be a dramatic actress to reckon with or a regular college student enjoying university life.

MORE living room decor.



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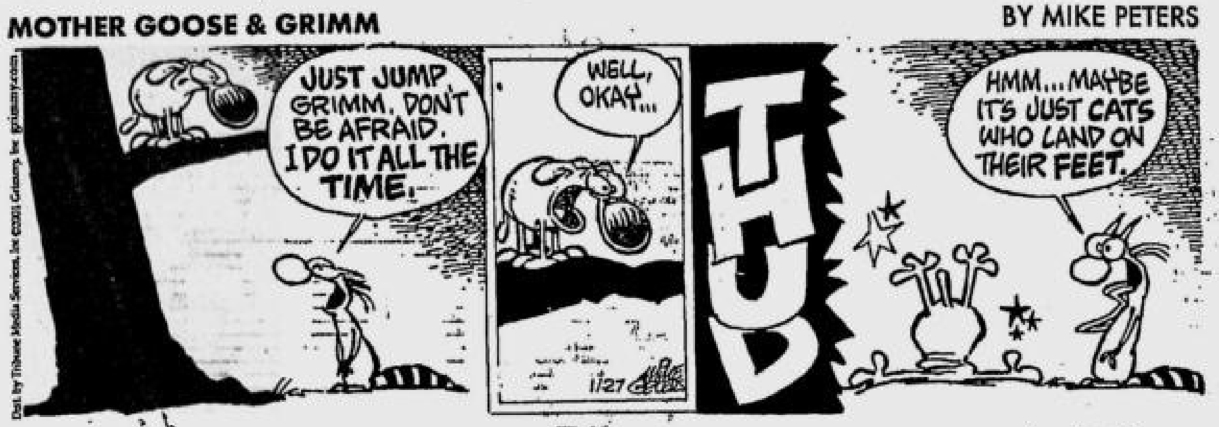
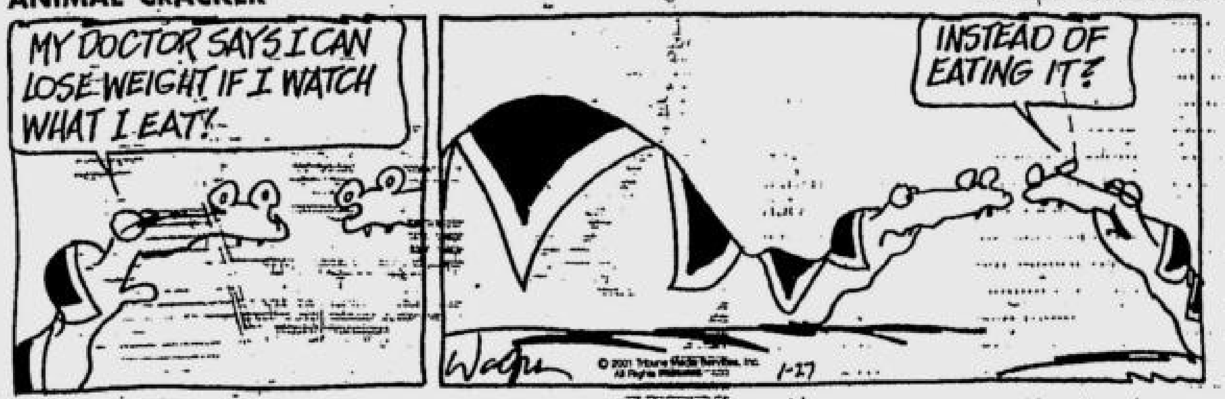
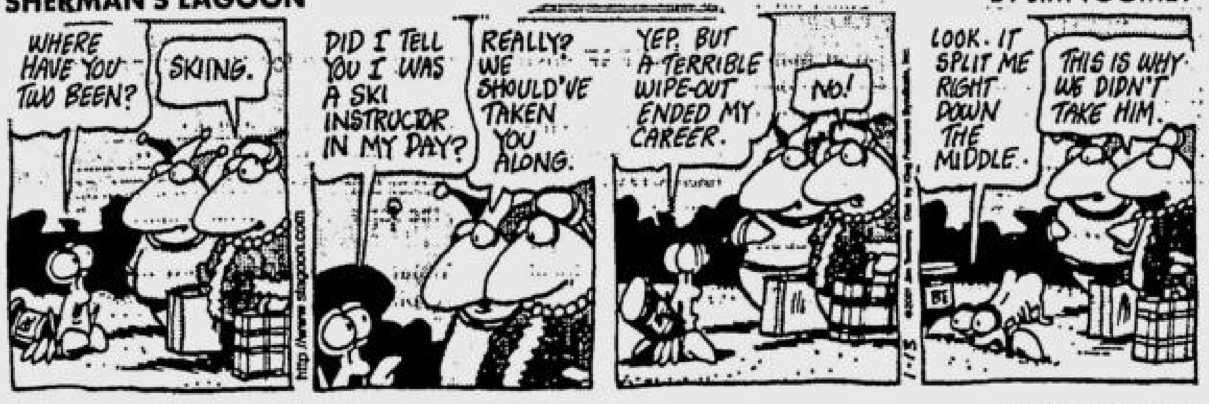
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


JUST JUMP GRIMM. DON'T BE AFRAID. I DO IT ALL THE TIME.
WELL, OKAY...
THUD
HMM... MAYBE IT'S JUST CATS WHO LAND ON THEIR FEET.
1/27

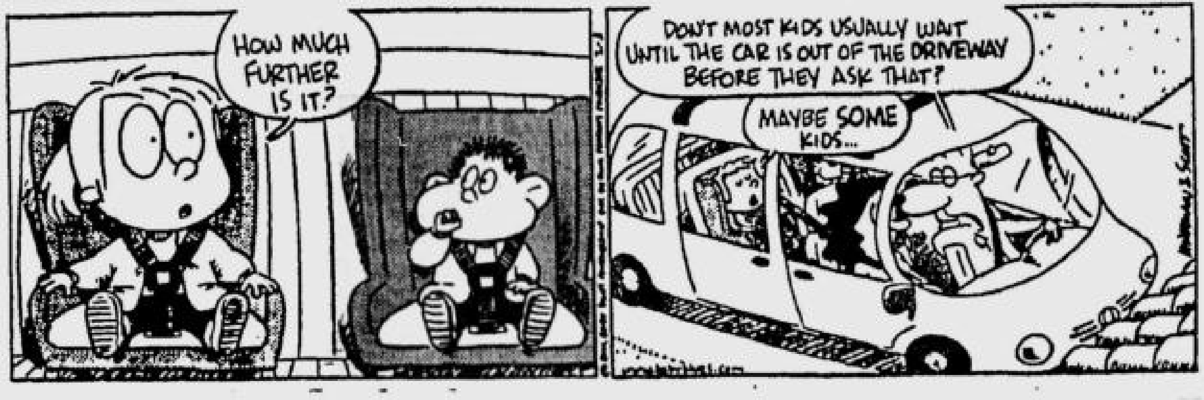
ANIMAL CRACKER BY FRED WAGNER


MY DOCTOR SAYS I CAN LOSE WEIGHT IF I WATCH WHAT I EAT!
INSTEAD OF EATING IT?
1-27

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


WHERE HAVE YOU TWO BEEN?
SKIING.
DID I TELL YOU I WAS A SKI INSTRUCTOR IN MY DAY?
REALLY? WE SHOULD'VE TAKEN YOU ALONG.
YEP. BUT A TERRIBLE WIPE-OUT ENDED MY CAREER.
NO!
LOOK. IT SPLIT ME RIGHT DOWN THE MIDDLE.
THIS IS WHY WE DIDN'T TAKE HIM.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


HOW MUCH FURTHER IS IT?
DON'T MOST KIDS USUALLY WAIT UNTIL THE CAR IS OUT OF THE DRIVEWAY BEFORE THEY ASK THAT?
MAYBE SOME KIDS...

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Paul Jones, Helen Shaver, Jenny O'Hara, Barry Bostwick, Billy Zane, Edward James Olmos

Happy Birthday: Concentrate on what you want to accomplish. Taking on too much will result in losses. You will need to be disciplined and tough. This is the year to say no to those who depend on you too much. Please yourself first, and you will feel the satisfaction of achieving your goals. Your numbers: 8, 13, 16, 22, 28, 34

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your attention will turn toward moneymaking ventures. Your ability to deal with others will enhance your reputation. Take care of the problems facing an older relative.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your ability to communicate with others will help you gain approval from those in strategic positions. Romantic connections can be made through friends. Don't be afraid to go on a blind date. The odds are in your favor.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make decisions and changes in your residential situation. You may not be able to please everyone, but you do have to please yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You need to take a break and experience new places and new things. Don't be reluctant to accept an invitation that may take you a distance.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take good care of yourself. Overindulgence will cause minor illness or upset. Be careful not to eat foods that don't agree with you. You may like them, but the reaction won't be worth it.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You'll be emotional concerning your personal relationship. Talk things over. It looks as if you've had a misunderstanding. Be honest with one another and all can be rectified.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You must not try to do too much today. Look into ways to improve your health. You need to spend more time on yourself. Don't let others take advantage of you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You should be doing creative things today. Look into activities that interest you. You need an outlet to satisfy your creative senses.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your family cost you too much. Take one step at a time and don't make promises to change things at home that will end up costing you a fortune.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Get together with friends. You need to do things that will bring you closer to those you enjoy being around. Romantic relationships can develop if you let them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Try not to live in the past. Look into ways of increasing your income if you really want to get ahead. Your ideas are good, but they are probably slightly ahead of their time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You need to satisfy yourself. Look into making changes that will increase your self-esteem. You can alter your looks, improve your attitude and learn more about awareness.

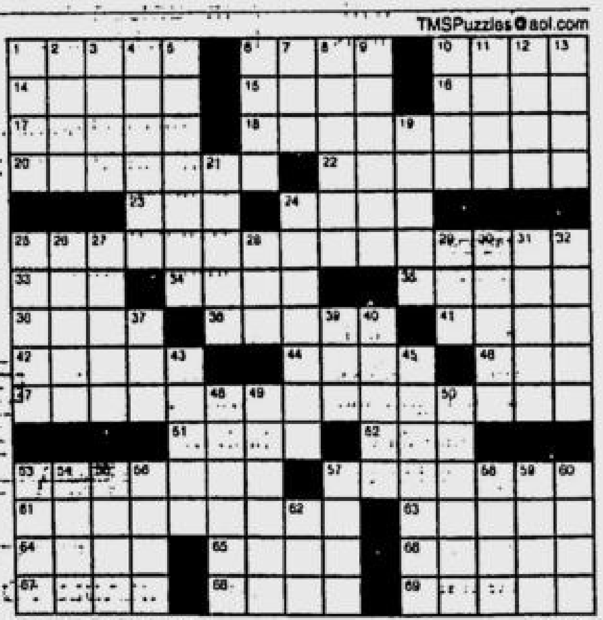
Birthday Baby: You are kind, caring and just. You have a natural talent for knowing what's good and what's not. You are intuitive, bright and eager to help others.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com

ACROSS
1 Actress Rene
6 Ramble
10 __ mater
14 Of the eyes
15 Beverly Archer on "Mama's Family"
16 Sugar source
17 Steed
18 Start of 1977 Digital Equipment founder's comment
20 Final stage
22 Surrenders
23 A Gabor
24 Bamboo stem
25 Part 2 of quote
33 Actress Hagen
34 Fly high
35 Old World finch
36 Racing org.
38 Twangy
41 Fence loot, e.g.
42 Corner
44 Fateful day
46 Fence's merchandise
47 Part 3 of quote
51 Singer Fitzgerald
52 Former Bruin Bobby
53 Frenchman in white-face
57 Rebuffed
61 End of the quote
63 Michael who was Alfie
64 Jack-in-the-pulpit, e.g.
65 1st letter
66 Provide income
67 G-men
68 Pound to a pulp
69 Pert

DOWN
1 End of all roads?
2 "Once __ a time..."
3 Poker game
4 Scorches
5 Books with pages of a certain size
6 Sacred ceremony
7 La-la lead-in
8 Sour mash
9 Docking facility
10 Irish Rose's love
11 Fewer
12 Bill of fare
13 At the summit
19 Finger-thrower's call
21 "__ Lescaut"
24 Napoleon's birthplace
25 Charge head-on
26 Of a people: pref.
27 Guttural scream
28 Air-travel watchdog grp.
29 Affirmative vote
30 Satellite's path
31 Family member
32 Sign on a door
37 In the style of
39 Ruckus
40 Sharp fruit
43 Slain civil-rights leader
45 Some evergreens
48 Jewish Jehovah
49 City near Hamburg
50 Champaign-__
53 Singer Edith
54 Concerning
55 Barak of Israel
56 Outer edges
57 Adam's last
58 Auction actions
59 Son of 57D
60 Freshly moist
62 Wrong: pref.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61 62 63
64 65 66
67 68 69

By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
1/11/01

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

S	C	A	M	■	S	M	O	G	■	R	E	L	A	Y
A	R	C	H	■	E	A	S	E	■	E	X	I	L	E
T	A	R	Z	A	N	T	H	E	A	P	E	M	A	N
E	V	E	■	I	D	E	A	■	L	E	M	O	N	S
D	E	S	T	R	O	Y	■	H	E	L	P	■	■	■
■	■	■	O	W	N	■	J	A	R	■	T	A	P	E
O	P	E	R	A	■	S	O	R	T	S	■	B	O	A
P	O	P	E	Y	E	T	H	E	S	A	I	L	O	R
T	E	E	■	S	C	A	N	S	■	U	S	E	R	S
S	T	E	P	■	H	I	S	■	A	S	P	■	■	■
■	■	■	I	C	O	N	■	P	L	A	Y	O	F	F
A	P	A	C	H	E	■	S	L	U	G	■	S	A	L
D	E	N	N	I	S	T	H	E	M	E	N	A	C	E
D	E	N	I	M	■	R	O	A	N	■	E	K	E	S
S	P	A	C	E	■	Y	E	T	I	■	W	A	S	H

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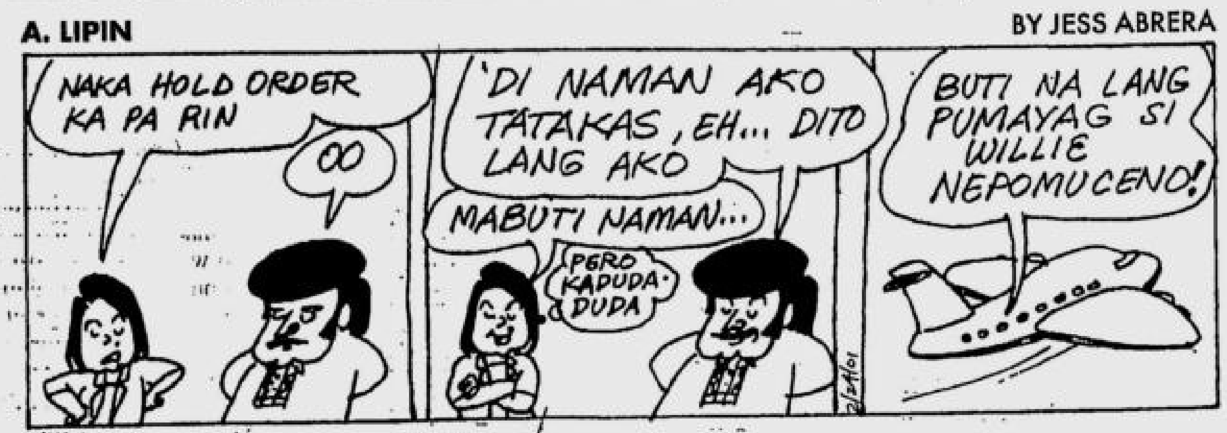
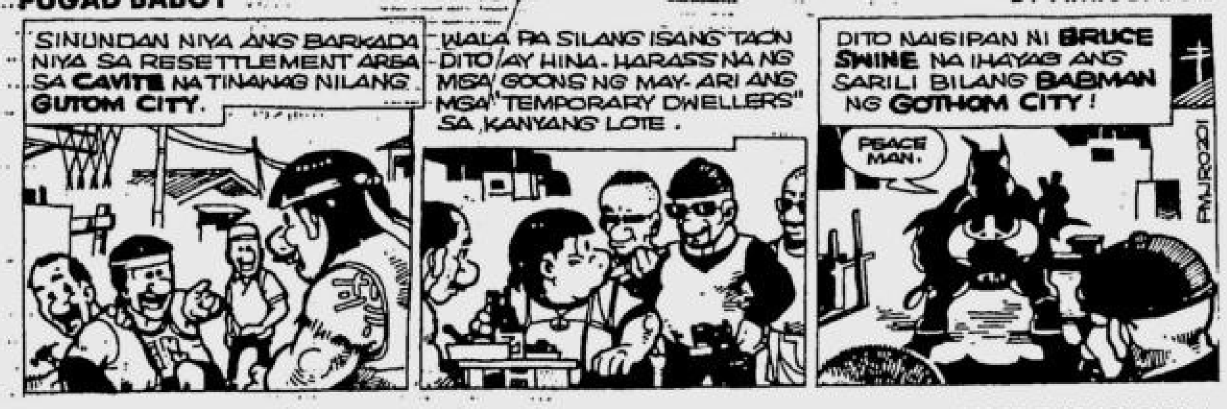
1/11/01

ANSWER ON MONDAY

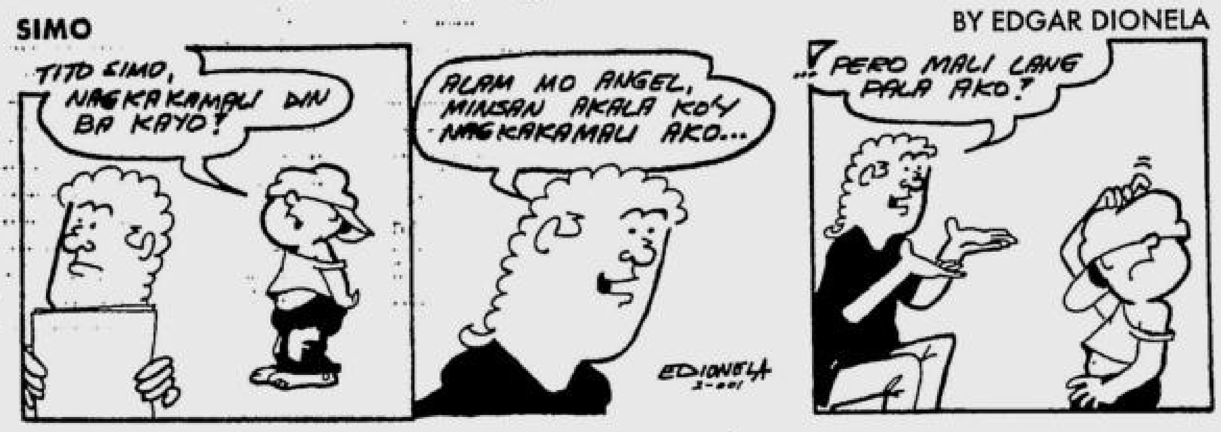
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


NAKA HOLD ORDER KA PA RIN
OO
'DI NAMAN AKO TATAKAS, EH... DITO LANG AKO
MABUTI NAMAN...
PERO KADUDA-DUDA
BUTI NA LANG PUMAYAG SI WILLIE NEPOMUCENO!

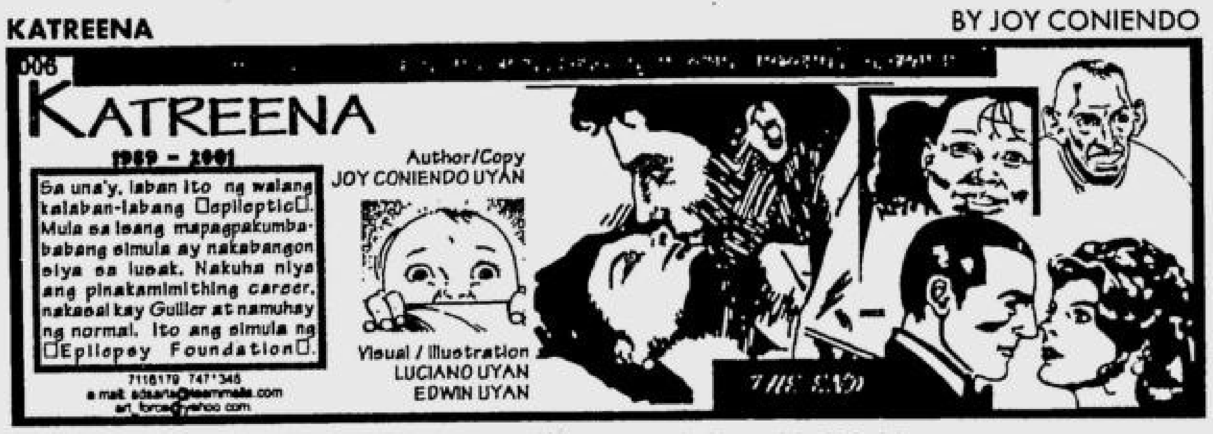
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


SINUNDAN NIYA ANG BARKADA NIYA SA RESETTLEMENT AREA SA CAVITE NA TINAWAG NILANG GUTOM CITY.
WALA PA SILANG ISANG TAON DITO AY HINA-HARASS NA NG MGA GOONS NG MAY-ARI ANG MGA "TEMPORARY DWELLERS" SA KANYANG LOTE.
DITO NAISIPAN NI BRUCE SWINE NA IHAYAG ANG SARILI BILANG BABMAN NG GOTHOM CITY!
PEACE MAN.

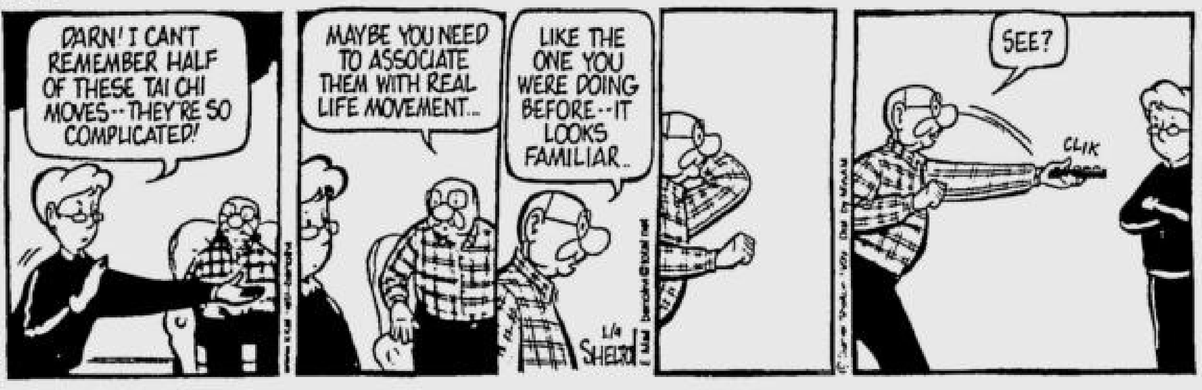
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


TITO SIMO, NAGKAKAMALI DIN BA KAYO?
ALAM MO ANGEL, MINSAN AKALA KO'Y NAGKAKAMALI AKO...
PERO MALI LANG PALA AKO?
EDIONELA

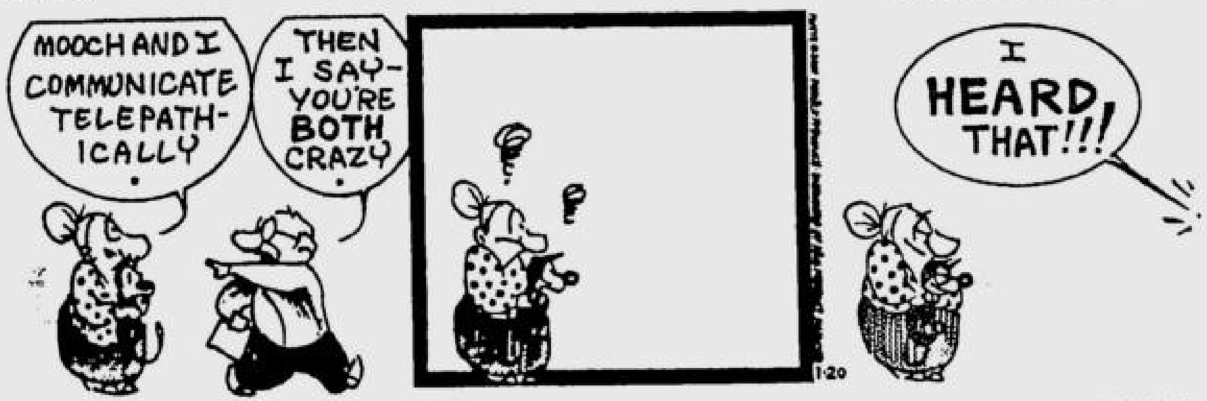
KATREENA BY JOY CONIENDO


KATREENA
1989 - 2001
Sa una'y, laban ito ng walang kalaban-labang "epileptic". Mula sa isang mapagpakumba-babang simula ay nakabangon siya sa lusak. Nakuha niya ang pinakamimithing career, nakasal kay Guiller at namuhay ng normal. Ito ang simula ng "Epilepsy Foundation".
Author/Copy JOY CONIENDO UYAN
Visual / Illustration LUCIANO UYAN EDWIN UYAN
THE END

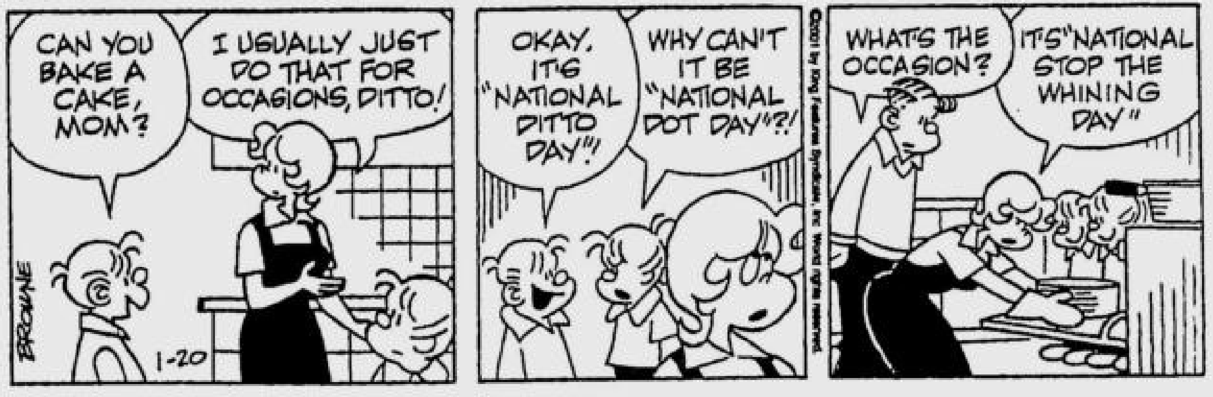
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


DARN! I CAN'T REMEMBER HALF OF THESE TAI CHI MOVES--THEY'RE SO COMPLICATED!
MAYBE YOU NEED TO ASSOCIATE THEM WITH REAL LIFE MOVEMENT...
LIKE THE ONE YOU WERE DOING BEFORE--IT LOOKS FAMILIAR...
SEE?
CLIK
1/4 SHELTON

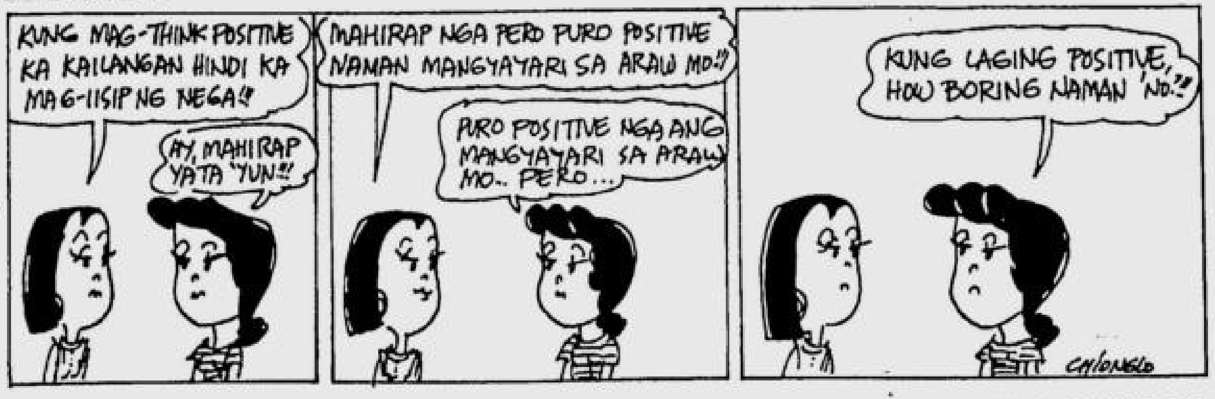
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


MOOCH AND I COMMUNICATE TELEPATH-ICALLY
THEN I SAY- YOU'RE BOTH CRAZY
I HEARD THAT!!!
1-20

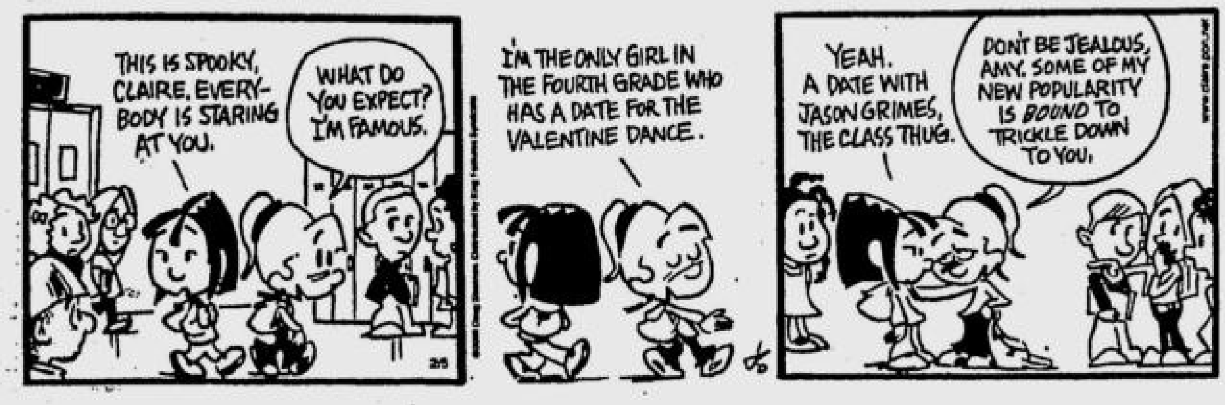
HI AND LOIS BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


CAN YOU BAKE A CAKE, MOM?
I USUALLY JUST DO THAT FOR OCCASIONS, DITTO!
OKAY. IT'S "NATIONAL DITTO DAY"!
WHY CAN'T IT BE "NATIONAL DOT DAY"?!
WHAT'S THE OCCASION?
IT'S "NATIONAL STOP THE WHINING DAY"
1-20

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


KUNG MAG-THINK POSITIVE KA KAILANGAN HINDI KA MAG-IISIP NG NEGA!!
AY, MAHIRAP YATA 'YUN!!
MAHIRAP NGA PERO PURO POSITIVE NAMAN MANGYAYARI SA ARAW MO!!
PURO POSITIVE NGA ANG MANGYAYARI SA ARAW MO.. PERO...
KUNG LAGING POSITIVE, HOW BORING NAMAN 'NO?!
CHIONGLO

CLAIRE BY DOUG SHANNON


THIS IS SPOOKY, CLAIRE. EVERYBODY IS STARING AT YOU.
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT? I'M FAMOUS.
I'M THE ONLY GIRL IN THE FOURTH GRADE WHO HAS A DATE FOR THE VALENTINE DANCE.
YEAH. A DATE WITH JASON GRIMES, THE CLASS THUG.
DON'T BE JEALOUS, AMY. SOME OF MY NEW POPULARITY IS BOUND TO TRICKLE DOWN TO YOU.

Trading on Lennon's name rather than his talent

By Giles Elgood

LENNON. Questionable artistic merit.

LONDON—Sexually explicit lithographs by Beatle John Lennon were so bad that they were only exhibited because they were the work of such a famous figure, according to secret police files from 1970 released on Jan. 25.

Gallery owner

Lennon's "Bag One" exhibition lasted only a few days before police confiscated most of the pictures and prosecuted the gallery owner under Britain's obscenity laws.

The artistic merit of the scrawled drawings, which showed Lennon and wife Yoko Ono in sexually explicit poses, failed to impress either Eugene Schuster, the American who put on Lennon's controversial "Bag One" exhibition, or the police officer who raided the gallery.

The police files on the case, released by the Public Record Office as part of efforts towards greater government openness, quote Schuster as saying: "They are bad art but after all it's the name that sells them."

The arts editor of the Guardian newspaper, Michael McNay, agreed, telling police: "I took exception to them because I thought the exhibition was trading on Lennon's name rather than his talent."

Complaints

Detective Inspector Frederick Luff, who swooped after complaints from the public, had doubts whether the pictures were well enough executed to count as genuine pornography.

"Many toilet walls depict works of similar merit," he noted scornfully. "It is perhaps charitable to suggest that they are the work of a sick mind," the 30-year-old files quoted him as saying.

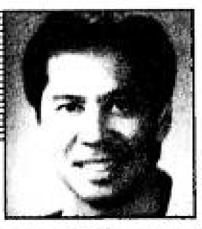
"The only danger to a successful prosecution, as I see it, is the argument that they are so pathetic as to be incapable of influencing anyone and therefore unable to deprave or corrupt any person," he said.

Luff concluded, however, that the prosecution should go ahead because of the influence that Lennon could wield as a member of the Beatles.

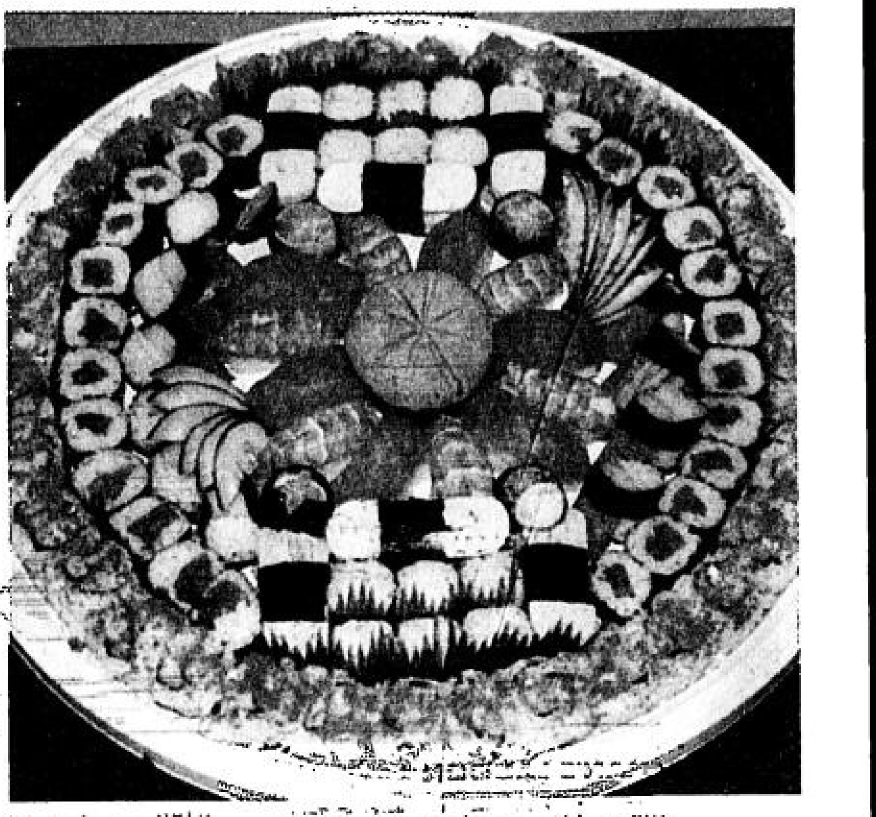
Publicity material for the show put out by Schuster's London Arts Gallery was more polite, saying: "Lennon's art speaks of life and reality, not mere pornography." *Reuters*

'Japanese-to-Go' at Kitaro

Word of Mouth



Sandy Daza



JAPANESE sushi pack to go, good for 15 to 18 persons.

JIMMY and Grace Sycip used to operate the Tokyo restaurants in Ermita and Makati. It was fun dining there for it made you feel like a good cook. You were made to grill your own food on a broiler available at each table. The food was great. After many years in operation, however, they decided to sell the business and move on to other ventures.

Healthy cuisines

Now, the love for food has brought this brother and sister tandem back to the business. The first thing they looked into was what the market wanted. One of the healthy cuisines around is Japanese. Being familiar with this cooking, they decided to create something new and different.

Another angle they looked into was giving various options to choose from. Usually, home delivery items come from either fast food chains or pizza parlors. To be different, they came up with "Japanese-to-Go."

Today, their Kitaro place has five branches all over the metropolis. Most of their items are sushi. All items are made fresh from chilled (not frozen) fresh fish. In their sushis, they use authentic Japanese rice.

I love their salmon sashimi and Unagi maki. Dipped in wasabi and some kikkoman, it is heaven and "*hindi pa nakaka*-guilty." They also have some rice toppings such as your common Katsudon, Sukiyakidon, Tuna Teriakidon, Unajudon, etc.

Dining area

All of the outlets have a dining area where one may sit and enjoy the great food. They do great business though in take out or home delivery. I was particularly impressed with their party packs. Usually, my family is left without a late snack except pizza. That is no longer the case. Kitaro is open up to midnight.

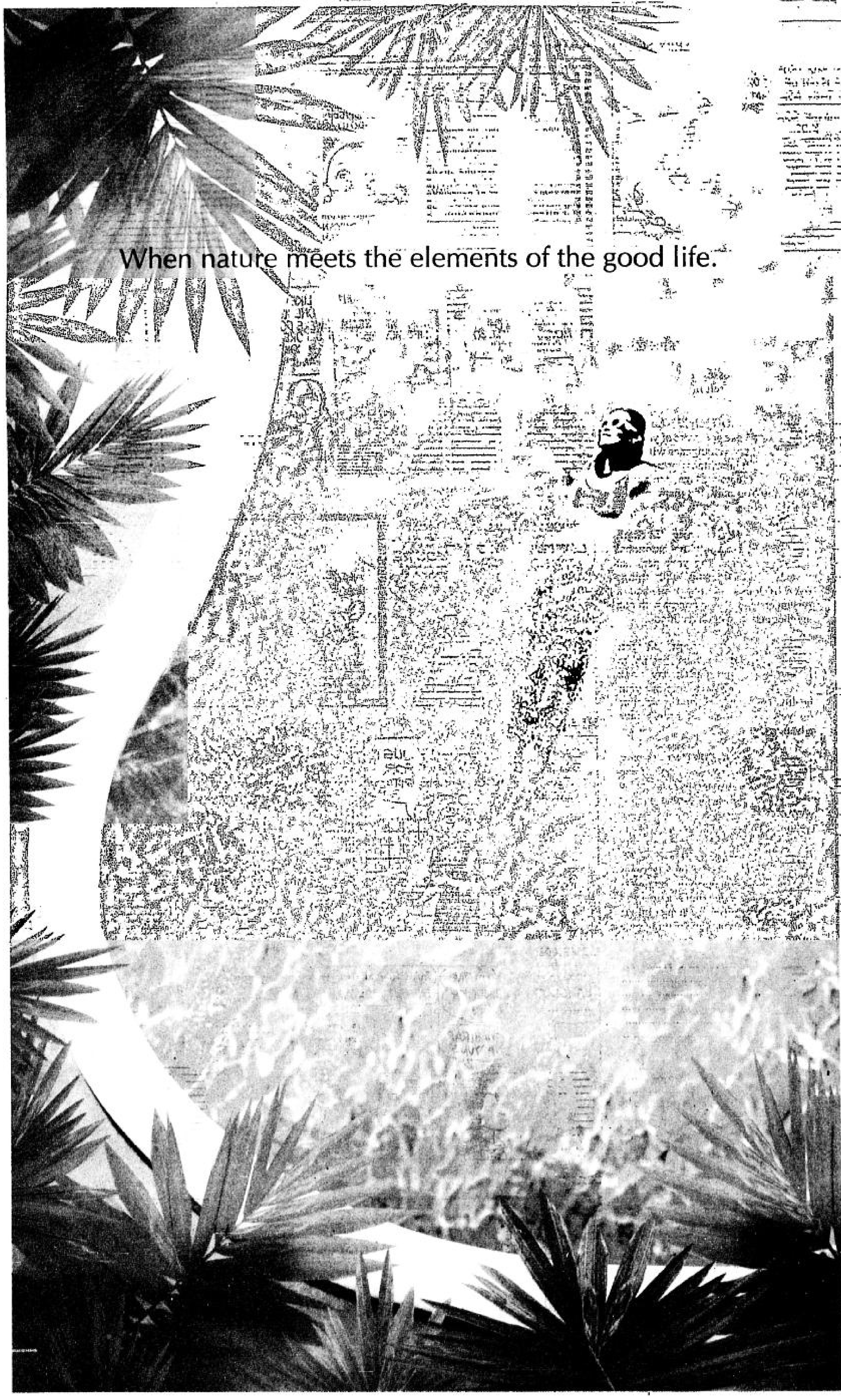
A small party tray has 64 pieces of sushi combinations. It is good enough to feed seven to 10 persons, for only P750. A big tray is good for 15 to 18 persons and costs only P1,100.

Prices are lower than at many Japanese restaurants (they are proud of this) and quality is equal if not better than at many expensive establishments.

Closing time

If you wish to get it even cheaper, wait at the outlets before closing time, because they sell the items 20 minutes before they close at 50 percent off. You can call this the Japanese pizza. Orders come in boxes that make them look like that, the Japanese version of pizza.

Kitaro is located at Annapolis (nice, simple, inexpensive place), Greenhills tel. no. 727-6849, 727-6923, Better Living, Bicutan, tel no. 776-5511, 776-5522, 776, 5533, Katipunan ave., White Plains, tel. 912-6626, 912-6627, Shaw blvd., tel. 721-4958, 726-6542 and Vito Cruz tel. 899-8917, 899-8918. Enjoy! Happy eating!



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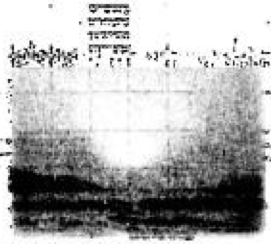

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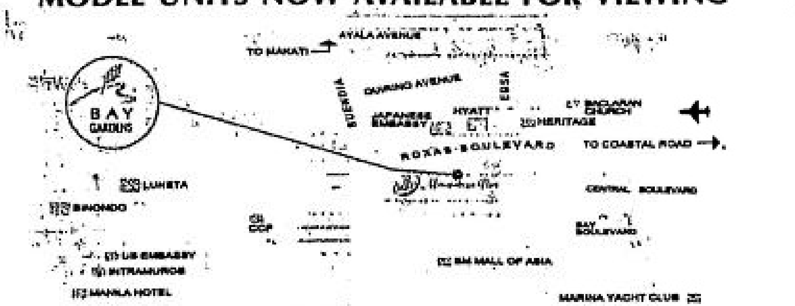

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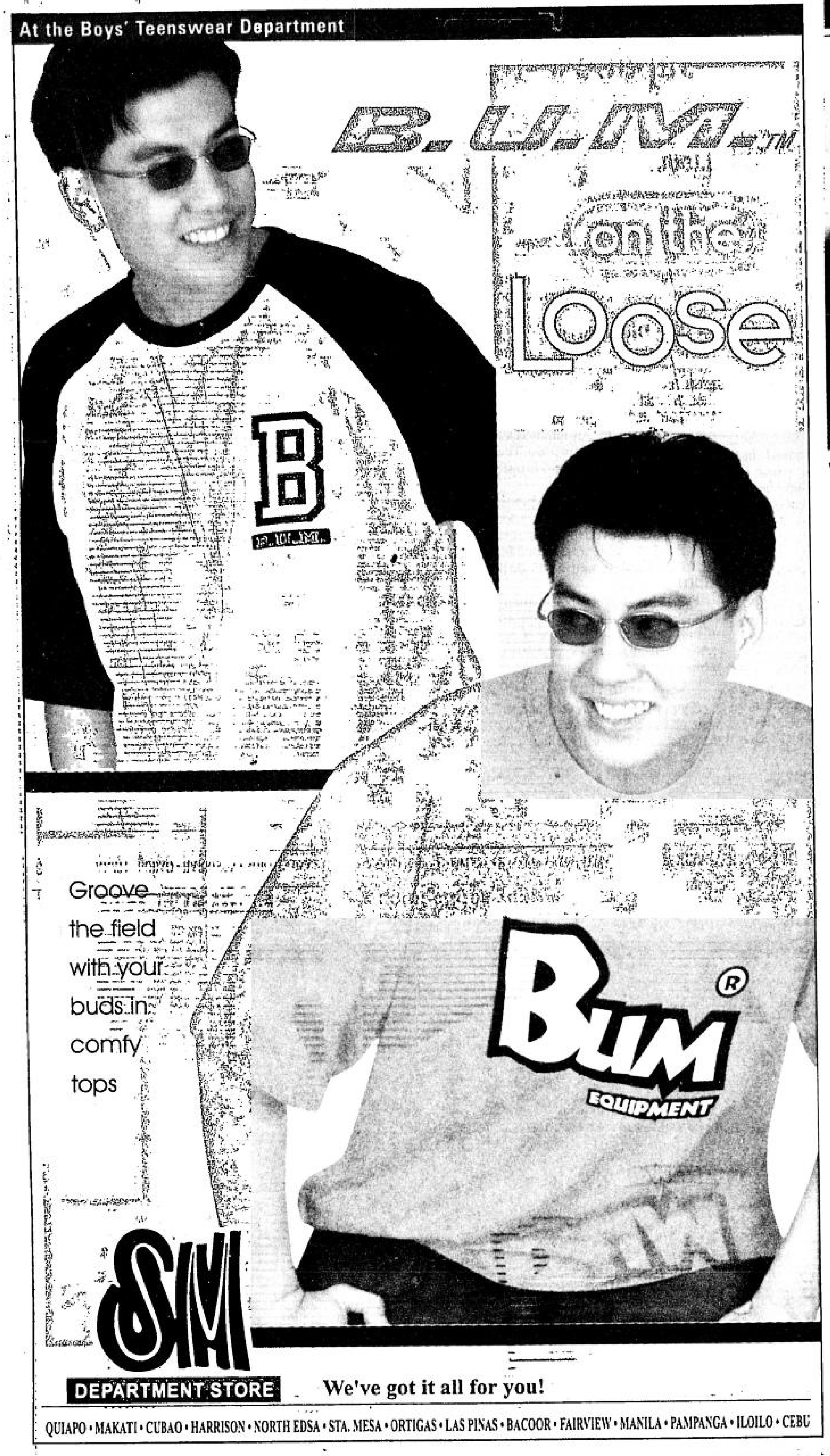

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WINSLET. The waif-like stereotype for lead actresses in films is stronger than ever.

Winslet has to lose weight to get work

LONDON—She says she despises herself for doing it, she thinks it is boring and insane.

Psychologists say her fans will be disappointed and that she is undermining what she has always stood for.

Diet

But British actress and "Titanic" star Kate Winslet says she must go on a diet after the birth of her daughter in order to get work.

It seems the power of Hollywood's casting directors to make actresses conform to a waif-like stereotype is stronger than ever.

With newspapers and magazines bingeing on weight-loss stories and miracle diet plans, Winslet's decision came as a blow to the "be who you are" school of body image.

"I constantly wave the flag of 'Don't go on diets because they're rubbish," Winslet told the Radio Times. "But I'd like to get a bit of the baby weight off or I won't work.

"What annoys me most is the more terribly thin and fit actresses we have, the less real our films become, which is sad," Winslet said.

Stereotype

Psychologists agree that the Hollywood stereotype of the stick-like actress with the "perfect" body is unrealistic and unrepresentative of the majority of women.

"So long as there is such reluctance among filmmakers to venture beyond the ultra-thin for their choice of leading ladies, this is going to be doing the whole population a disservice," said Professor Jane Wardle of University College London.

Winslet's suggestion that Hollywood would not cast a larger actress must also have been a disappointing realization for her fans.

"The majority of people in the whole country must have felt discouraged by that," she said. "They must have felt it was rampant prejudice against what is in essence a normal body shape, indeed an unusually beautiful body shape."

By succumbing to the pressure to lose weight, Winslet has merely reinforced Hollywood's conventions.

In doing so, she has also revealed a deeper psychological motivation behind why women diet, said Dianne Jade of the National Center for Eating Disorders.

"What is not being acknowledged is that people who do achieve slimness are seen to be rewarded and that is a powerful dynamic in people's behavior," Jade said.

Reward

By losing weight, Winslet will enjoy the "reward" of Hollywood parts, but she will also imply that recognition and success come only with weight loss.

"She is reinforcing the message that people who decide to give up the battle to be a perfect size six are going to suffer," Jade said.

But Winslet is not alone in entering the battle against the bulge.

Voluptuous catwalk model, Sophie Dahl, announced last year that she had hired a personal trainer to help cut down her weight.

A host of British television personalities have also detailed in the press how cabbage soup, sprouts and high fiber diets have enabled them to shed the pounds.

Psychologists say that so many well-publicized diet decisions merely add to the pressure which faces men and women who are uncomfortable with their body weight.

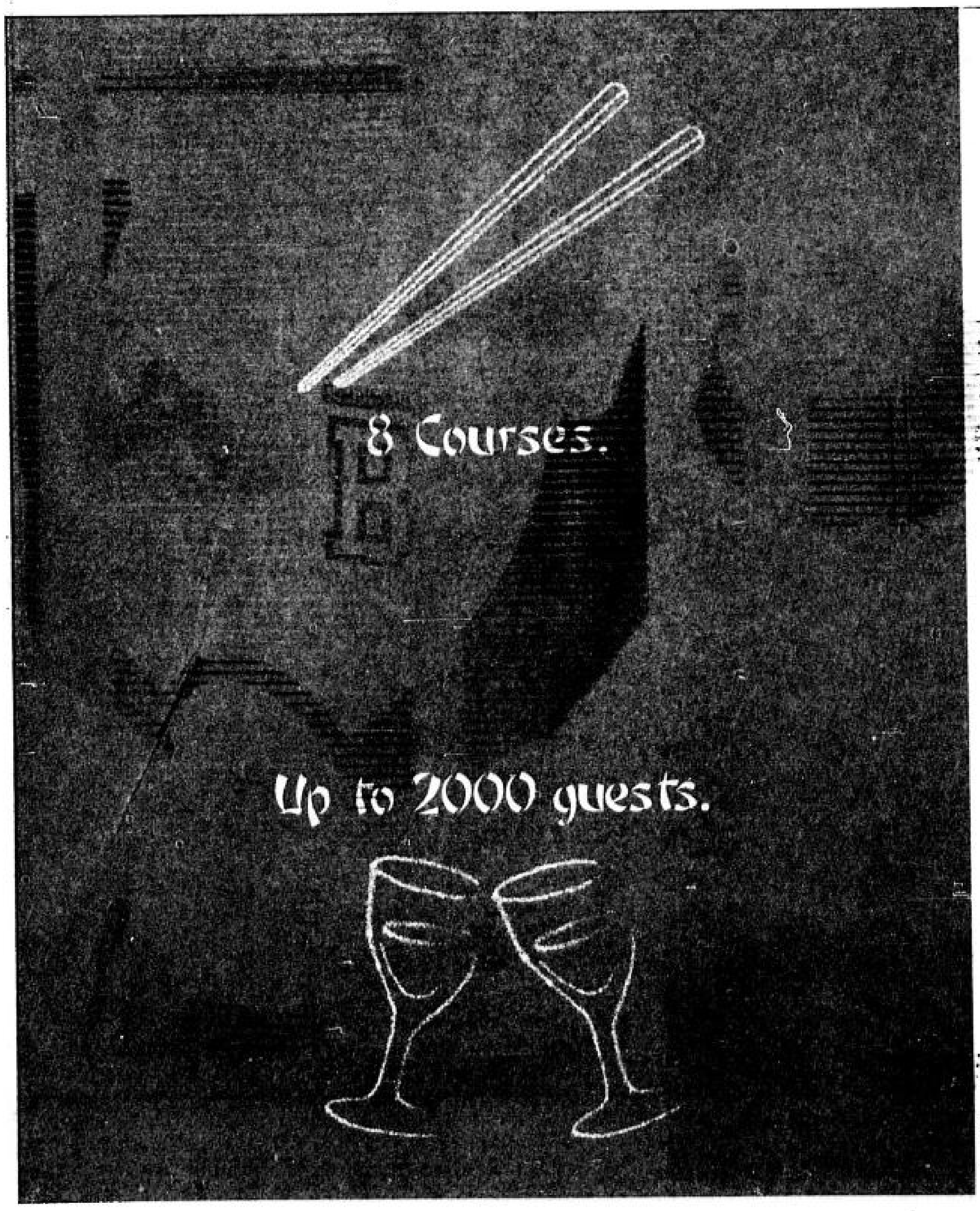
Over-indulgence

And with Christmas over-indulgence weighing heavy on the nation's minds and bodies, the first few months of the New Year are a particularly stressful time.

"There is a constant underlying anxiety in all women about weight," Jade said. "But what these (women) have done is to create a population that is more anxious about eating and food choices and is more prone to go on a diet."

Now the loss of an unspoken campaigner against dieting deprives women of a guiding light.

"She (was) a role model," Jade said. "But she was a lone voice in a loud orchestra." *Reuters*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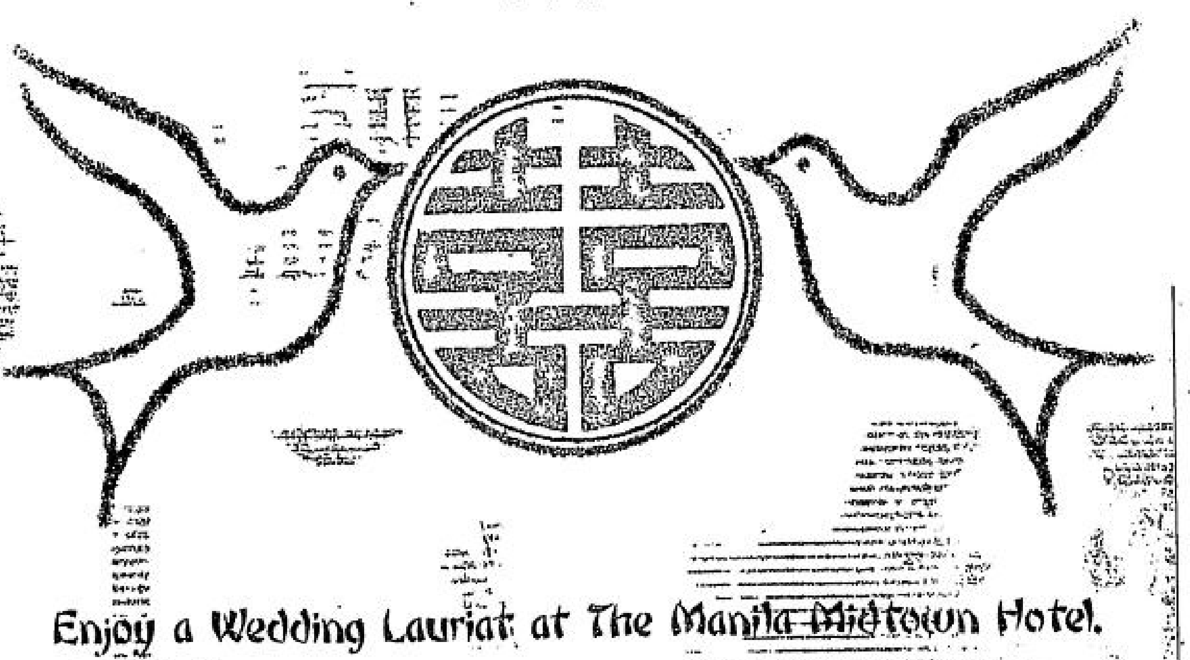

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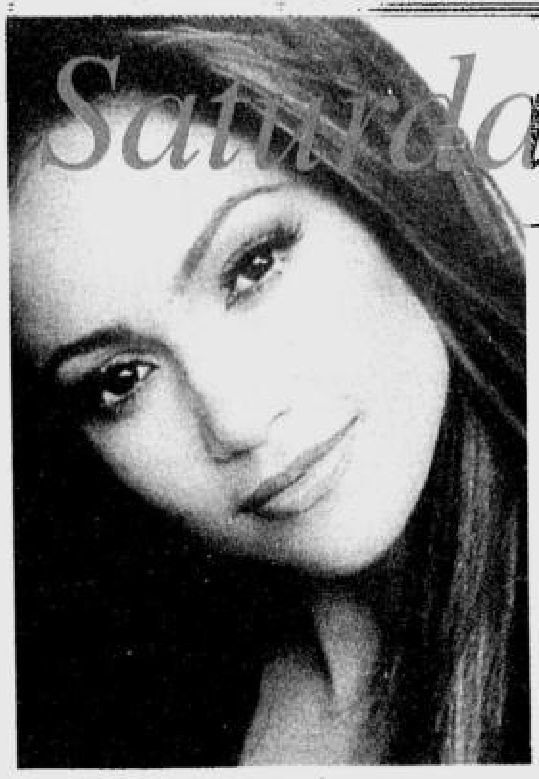

LOPEZ. Describes herself as "very old-fashioned and traditional"—no kidding.

Jennifer Lopez enjoys the challenge of romantic comedy

By Jill Serjeant

LOS ANGELES—Jennifer Lopez was keeping her reputed $1 billion body well under wraps. Demurely dressed in a caramel-colored roll-neck sweater, knee-length suede skirt and knee-high brown boots, she was giving away about as much of her famous curves as she was of the woman behind the celebrity image.

Unusual decorum

Maybe the unusual decorum was in line with her latest screen persona: a no-nonsense career girl whose cynical heart is melted by a dashing doctor in Lopez's first stab at romantic comedy.

Or perhaps she was rehearsing for a courtroom appearance in the imminent weapons possession and bribery trial of her controversial rap star ex-boyfriend, Sean "Puff Daddy" Combs.

Or could she be having second thoughts about her sex symbol status, which was crowned by the gravity-defying gown, slashed to the waist and up to the thighs, that made her the talk of the town a year ago.

Whatever the reason, Lopez was not saying, and despite a tumultuous 18 months in both her personal and professional lives no journalist was either brave or foolish enough to ask.

Sultry celebrity

In four short years, the working class young woman from the Bronx has shot from ambitious, determined wannabe actress to sultry celebrity with regular appearances on the lists of the world's most beautiful people.

She has also been married and divorced, turned 30, is about to release her second pop music album and has just broken up with millionaire music mogul Puff Daddy.

The rap star is standing trial on weapons possessions charges stemming from a December 1999 New York nightclub fracas that left three people wounded. He denies the charges.

Lopez claims much of the gossip passes her by—be it rumors that her body, dubbed "la Guitarra," is insured for $1 billion, or that she would rather be considered sexy than smart.

"My way of dealing with it is not even knowing what's going in. I don't know half the things they say or half the things they write or the rumors out there. Don't care. Don't care to know. Don't ask anybody what's going on," Lopez said.

"These (press) junkets are always an eye opener for me about what's really being said," she said, nonchalantly chewing gum.

Misunderstood

Sure, she has a heart, and yes, she does sometimes feel misunderstood. "But there's no way I can control that. ... At the end of the day, I just want my work to speak for itself."

Lopez is nothing if not determined. "I knew from the time I was very little that singing, dancing and acting was something I would do, and that if I wasn't going to do it, I was going to die trying."

So when Adam Shankman, director of her new movie "The Wedding Planner," decided she was just too sexy for the lead role of a workaholic businesswoman with no room for a love life, Lopez set out to win him over—with a dress.

"I met with him and I dressed more conservative," she recalled. "I wore a little pastel-colored suit, a pair of white pumps and a white button down shirt."

Departure

"The Wedding Planner," released in the United States last Jan. 26, is a new departure for Lopez after her role as a psychologist in the disturbing thriller "The Cell" and the chemistry she cooked up with George Clooney in the 1998 action movie "Out of Sight."

Lopez said she enjoyed the challenge of romantic comedy, describing herself as "very old-fashioned and traditional." Except, perhaps, when it came to donning the most-talked-about, revealing dress of the year for last year's Grammy music awards. Pictures of her almost wearing that dress were downloaded 643,000 times in 24 hours from the official Grammy Web site.

"(The Publicity) was insane and funny and wonderful and weird," she reflected. "Of course I would do it again." *Reuters*

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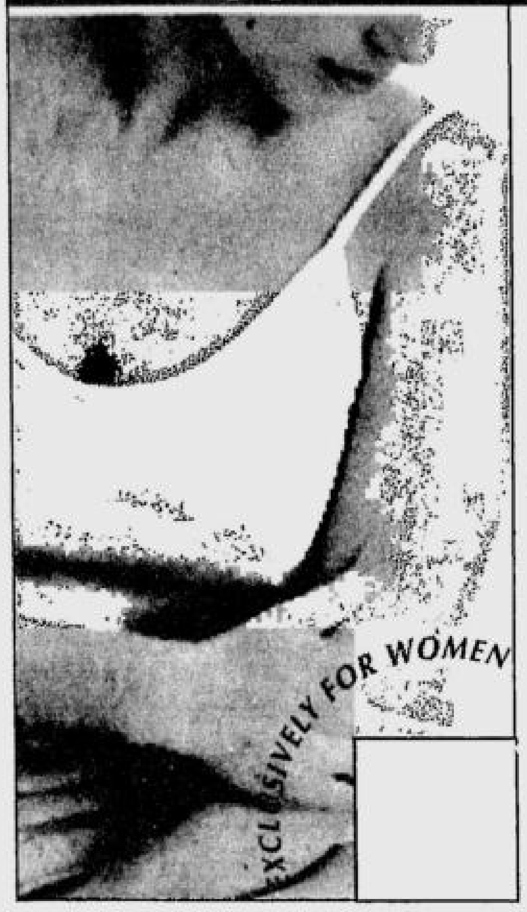
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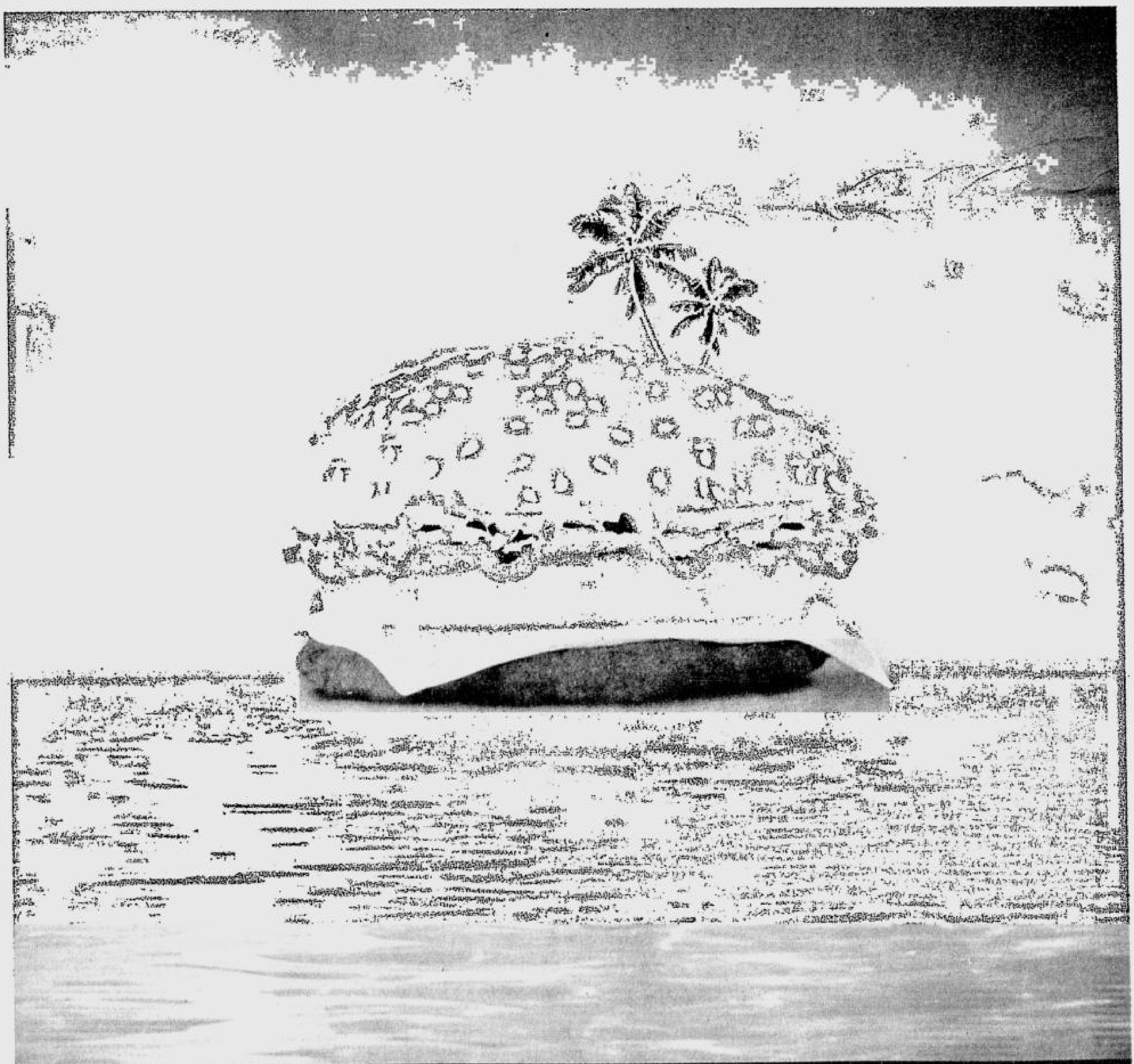

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TWO FOR THE SHOW

Jolina launches dance album

By MARY ANN A. BAUTISTA AND RICKY T. GALLARDO

JOLINA Magdangal is a trendsetter. Before something becomes hot, she has virtually outgrown the trend or is able to transform it to her own statement. After recording songs from the '50s in "On Memory Lane" to bring old, classic love songs closer to Gen-Xers, Jolina ventures into techno, rave music with her "Red Alert" album.

Too bad there's only one original cut in the album ("Angel for Life") and the rest are remixes of her previous hits, like "Smile," "Paper Roses," "Laging Tapat" and "Oh Babe." But Jolina clarifies that the album is not lacking in creativity even if it has only one original track.

"It's my brainchild. *Yung mga* costumes (Chinese, Hindu, Egyptian, Eskimo and Japanese) *ko* for the music videos, *lahat may* red. *Pati yung* red siren *sa* promo, *ako ang nag-isip*. They will enjoy listening to it. *Ito ang uso sa mga* clubs *ngayon*," Jolina declares.

Even if her co-stars on "Gimik," Rica Peralejo and Mylene Dizon, have undergone "image makeovers." Jolina stresses that she will hold on to her wholesome image because it is her foundation. "*Marami akong* fans *na bata, kaya dapat* wholesome."

Before she embarks on a concert tour of Sydney, Australia and the United States, Jolina keeps herself busy taping for "Ariba, Ariba" and her business, Jolina's Fashion Gallery.

When she's at home, she tinkers with her "*abubot.*" "*Mahilig akong magbutingting ng kung anu-ano, kaya siguro nakakaimbento ako ng mga* accessories *para sa* shop *ko*," she giggles.

She wants her future boyfriend to be full of surprises and to court her like a princess. "*Gusto ko,* girl *na* girl *ang* feeling *ko*. I like receiving flowers and chocolates but I also want him to show me his bad side.

"*Gusto ko din yung madaldal, masarap kausap—pero hindi lang sarili niya ang* topic, *ha*? I want someone who loves his family very much. *Mababaw ako, kaya madali akong ligawan*," Jolina grins.

True to her word, Jolina adds that she wanted to become a Metro Aide or a *labandera* when she was a kid. "*Noong bata pa ako, gustung-gusto ko nang yumaman. Si* Mommy *kasi, nagtatrabaho sa* Landbank *dati at dangkal-dangkal yung binibilang na pera, kaya gusto ko ganoon din ako. Sabi ng mga* maid *namin, maraming kalye kaya yayaman ako sa pagiging* Metro Aide."

Brand new start for The Dawn

Everything went smoothly for the seminal new wave group The Dawn when it recently launched its latest album, "Prodigal Sun" under Sony Music Philippines. The inimitable, unique sound that has characterized the group was very much evident throughout the showcase held recently at the Music Museum, fraught with a repertoire swelling with both newness and nostalgia.

The Dawn performed their signature hits culled from past studio albums such as "A Little Paradise," "Dreams" and "Iisang Bangka," the most applauded of which was "Enveloped Ideas," which catapulted the group to fame. Of course, the crowd had a sampling of what their new sound is all about, with choice numbers from their 18-track CD.

We particularly enjoyed "Standing By Your Heart," which is the album's carrier track, the refreshing "I Saw You Coming In" and the profound "Will We Ever Learn." There's also a revved-up version of "Salamat," which was one of their big hits, and the timely "Kalayaan."

Nick Joaquin's latest play opens

We caught the opening night of Nick Joaquin's latest play, "Pinoy Agonistes," at the

JOLINA/G3

MAGDANGAL. Holding on to her wholesome image.

YOUR WEEKLY TV GUIDE FROM FEB 24 - MARCH 2

CH	2	4	5	7	9	13	23	29	E! 31
SAT	5:30 Magandang Gabi, Bayan 7.00 Ariba, Ariba 8.30 Laki sa Laya Concert 9.30 Pinoy Exposed 10.00 Keep on Dancing 11.00 Loren / "F" 12.00 The Weekend News	6.00 Cartoon Hour 7.00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 SOF 9.00 Lotto Draw 9.15 Road to Sydney 10.15 Fashion Watch 10.45 Olympic Primer 11.15 National Network News 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6.00 Princess Tenko 6.30 Sailormoon Super S 7.00 Easy Money 8.00 Ispup 9.00 Eezy Dancing Non-Stop 10.00 Saturday Night Movies 12.00 Diagnosis Murder	5:30 Brigada Siete 7.00 Idol Ko Si Kap 8.00 Kakabakaba 9.30 GMA's BEST 11.00 Master Showman Presents 12.30 GMA Network News 1.00 The 700 Club	6.00 SaBayan 7.00 Conan 8.00 Martial Law 9.00 Saturday Night Playhouse 11.00 Business Class 11.30 Late Night Movie	5.30 H2K 7.00 Viva Premiere Night 9.00 Kagat sa Dilim 10.00 Gags Must Be Crazy 11.00 Night Lines	4.00 MBA 7.00 Two of a Kind 7.30 Seventh Heaven 8.30 Party of Five 9.30 Studio 23 *Audrey Hepburn Story (2)* 12.00 MTV	3.00 Q Show Case 7.00 Xclusive Cinema Special 9.00 Oras ng Katotohanan 9.30 Armor of God 10.00 Oh Tokyo 11.00 Pinoy Wrestling	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! Coming Attractions 7.00 E! Special *International TV Hits* 8.00 E! Special *Entertainers 2000* 9.00 E! True Hollywood Story *Gary Busey* 10.00 David Letterman Show 12.00 Wild On *The Amazon* 1.00 Search Party
SUN	5.30 Knowledge Power 6.00 Sharon 7.00 Wansapanataym 8.30 Richard Loves Lucy 9.30 ABS-CBN Presents 11.00 The Weekend News 11.30 Oh No, It's Johnny	6.00 Uncut 6.30 Ugat 7.00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 Primetime Specials 10.00 National Network News 10.30 Business & Leisure 11.00 Sullada 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	5.00 Tarzan 6.00 Savage Dragon 6.30 Janperson 7.00 Sing-Galing 8.00 Wow Mali! 9.00 Sunday Night Specials 11.00 Johnny Walker Powerplay 11.30 Sentinel	5.30 Partners Mel and Jay 7.00 Bitoy's World 7.30 GMA Telesine 9.30 Sunday Night Box Office 11.30 Che-Che Lazaro Presents 12.00 GMA Network News 12.30 The 700 Club	5.30 Hollywood Squares 6.00 Compañero y Compañera 7.00 Ripley's Believe It or Not 8.00 Kids Say the Darndest Things 8.30 Stark Raving Mad 9.00 Sunday's Big Event 11.00 Sunday Report 11.30 Estrada Presidency	4.00 PBA 9.00 Sinemaks 11.00 In His Steps 11.30 PBA Moments	6.00 Timecop 7.00 Dawson's Creek 8.00 The Nanny 8.30 Will and Grace 9.00 Spin City 9.30 Jack & Jill 10.30 Digital Tour 11.00 Sunday Night Movies	5.00 Quartermaster Window Shop 7.00 Sunday Mini-Series 8.00 Oh Tokyo 9.00 Sunday Night Movies 11.00 Bikini Open	6.00 Talk Soup 6.30 CBS Evening News 7.00 60 Minutes (CBS) 8.00 E! Special *Academy Award Nominations* 9.00 E! True Hollywood Story *The Making of the Cotton Club Movie* 11.00 Celebrity Profile *Jodie Foster* 12.00 Talk Soup
MON	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Kaya ni Mister, Kaya ni Misis 9.00 Judy Ann Drama Special 10.30 Headlines 11.00 Rosalinda 11.30 Correspondents 12.30 Martin Late@Nite	5.30 Pambansang Balita 6.00 Cartoon Hour 7.00 On-Line Bingo 8.00 Pilipino Box-Office 9.00 Lotto Draw 10.15 National Network News 11.00 Job Network/Fora Medica 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6.00 Gintong Pangarap 6.30 Transformers Original 7.00 Macron 1 7.30 Freakazoid 8.00 By Request 9.00 Spy Games 10.00 The Big News 10.30 Beach Patrol 11.30 High Tide	6.00 Saksi 6.30 Trigun 7.00 Dragonball Z 7.30 Pinoy Blockbusters 9.30 Kiss Muna 10.30 Front Page 11.00 I-Witness 12.00 The 700 Club	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6.30 May Bukas Pa 7.00 Siempre Te Amare 7.30 Maria del Cielo 8.00 Michael Hayes 9.00 The X-Files 10.00 Primetime Balita 10.30 Honasan Reports	7.00 Blow By Blow 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9.00 Viva Proudly Presents 10.30 Super Bouts 11.00 Ronda Trese 11.30 Amerika Atbp	6.00 MTV Diyes 7.00 Greed 7.30 Making the Band 8.00 Time of Your Life 9.00 Charmed 10.00 News Central 10.30 Points of View 11.30 Nightman 12.00 MTV	4.30 Quartermaster 6.30 Q Showcase 7.30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Q Showcase 9.00 Ang Dating Daan 10.00 Q Showcase	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 Fashion Emergency 7.30 Celebrity Homes 8.00 E! Behind the Scenes *Remember the Titans* 8.30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Capucine* 9.00 E! True Hollywood Story *Corey Feldman* 10.00 David Letterman Show
TUE	6.00 TV Patrol 6.30 Saan Ka Man Naroroon 7.00 Pangako sa 'Yo 7.30 Oka Tokat 8.30 Regal Presents 10.30 Headlines 11.00 Rosalinda 11.30 Pipol 12.30 Martin Late@Nite	5.30 Pambansang Balita 6.30 Cartoon Hour 7.00 Thief Takers 8.00 PBL 9.00 Lotto Draw 10.15 National Network News 11.00 Business Insight 12.00 Game of a Thousand Thrills	6.00 Gintong Pangarap 6.30 Transformers Original 7.00 G.I. Joe 7.30 Superman (Animated) 8.00 Hercules 9.00 Team Knight Rider 10.00 The Big News 10.30 Kontak 5 11.30 F/X The Series 12.30 The Big News (Replay)	6.00 Saksi 6.30 Bubble Gum Crisis 7.00 Virtua Fighter 7.30 Kool Ka Lang 9.00 Kasangga 10.30 Front Page 11.00 The Probe Team 12.00 The 700 Club	5.30 Arangkada Xtra Balita 6.00 Quinceañera 6.30 May Bukas Pa 7.00 Siempre Te Amare 7.30 Maria del Cielo 8.00 Ally McBeal 9.00 The Practice 10.00 Primetime Balita 10.30 Jay Sonza's Tapatan 11.30 Ngayon Na Pinoy	6.00 Rising Stars of Billiards 7.00 DMZ TV 8.00 Who Wants To Be A Millionaire? 9.00 Now Showing 11.00 Ronda Trese	6.00 MTV Most Wanted 7.00 Greed 7.30 Popular 8.30 Beverly Hills 90210 9.30 Grapevine 10.00 News Central 10.30 Oprah 11.15 Nightman 12.45 MTV	4.30 Quartermaster 6.30 Q Showcase 7.30 Oras ng Katotohanan 8.00 Ang Dating Daan (Live)	6.00 CBS Evening News 6.30 E! News Daily 7.00 E! Fashion Emergency 7.30 Celebrity Homes 8.00 E! Behind the Scenes *Deuce Bigalow* 8.30 E! Mysteries & Scandals *Alan Ladd* 9.00 E! True Hollywood Story *Eight Is Enough* 10.00 David Letterman Show
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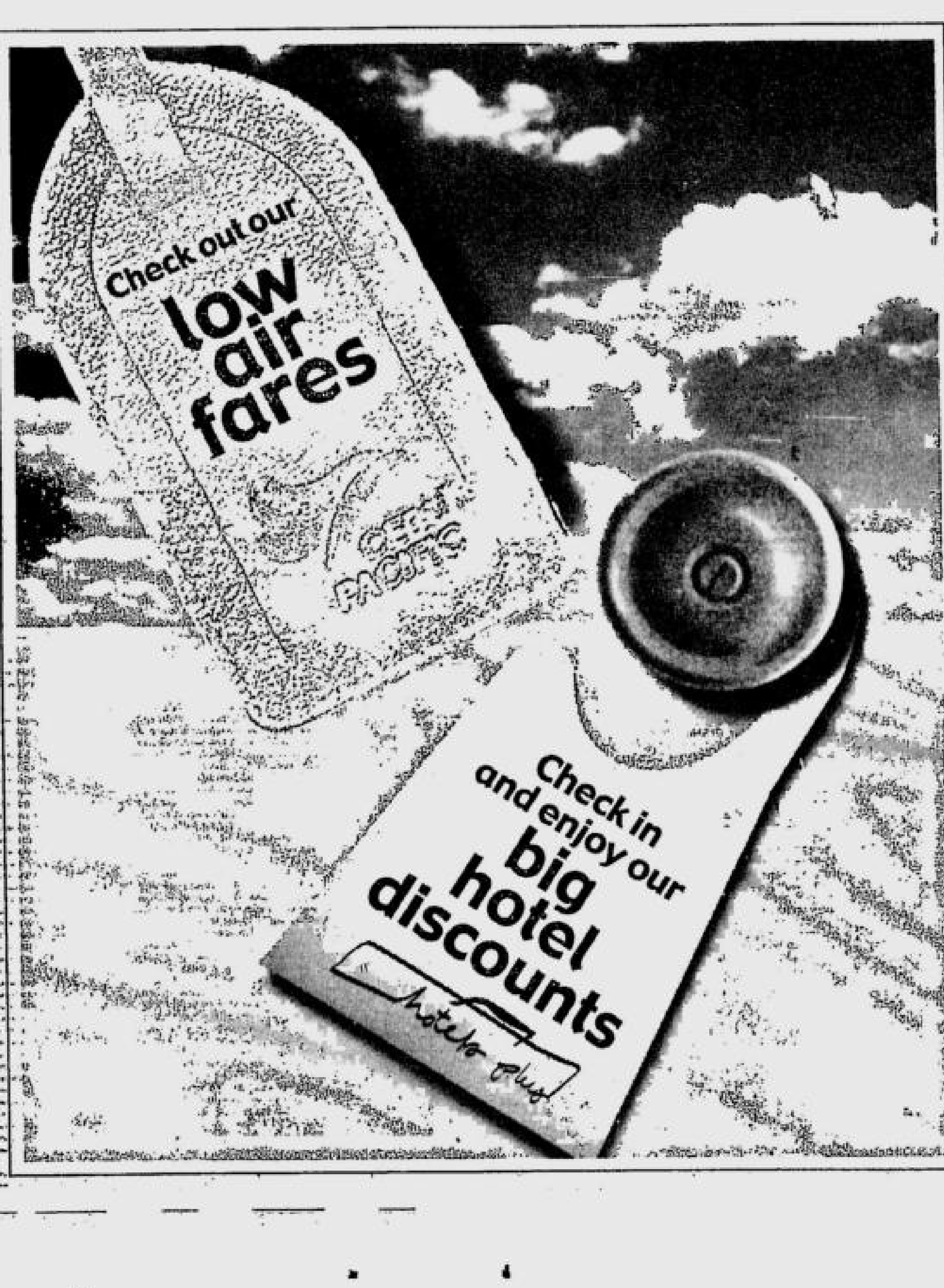

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The mayor and the governor

FACE TO FACE

Inday Badiday

IN THE RECENT People Power II episode, one of the most unexpected and controversial 11th hour anti-Erap conversions was that of action star and Cavite Governor Bong Revilla. Since he was a close friend of current San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada from way back, nobody thought that Bong would risk his longstanding relationship with the Estradas by coming out with his political convictions in a very public way.

Defection

For the record, Bong and his wife Lani Mercado were one of the first actors to troop to Edsa right after the dilemma over the impeachment process surfaced. Many feel that their defection paved a path for other actors to come up front and ask former President Joseph Estrada to resign. Naturally, the move created a big gap between the two, and the once bosom buddies became estranged.

How close were Jinggoy and Bong before all of these happened? Plainly put, they treated each other like brothers. The type who'd go out every night only to talk on the phone again the next morning about anything and everything. Jinggoy and Bong were almost inseparable, and they would drop in on each other regardless of protocol, and at a moment's notice.

They were so close that people from the industry couldn't think of Bong's name without thinking of Jinggoy's, and vice versa.

One time, when I was asked to produce the FAP awards night, my casting coordinator Lolit Solis suggested that we get Bong and Jinggoy (along with Phillip Salvador and Rudy Fernandez, who complete their *barkada*) to host the affair and to do a production number together. "*Dahil kulang kung hindi lahat sila!*" Lolit said.

That was how close they were perceived by the industry—and in reality! People would even jokingly refer to them as the original "Hawi Boys."

> They treated each other like brothers and would go out every night only to talk on the phone again the next morning

Alike

And they were alike in many ways—from their height and build, up to their taste in women (though both of them are happily married). Truth is, before Lani married Bong, Jinggoy courted her. Eventually, Jinggoy ended up with his wife, Precy Vitug.

As persons, the two share many qualities. Both Bong and Jinggoy are very sensitive and give high points to loyalty and friendship.

They became closer when Jinggoy's dad, Joseph Estrada, became president. If before their friendship was only about nights out and guesting in each other's movies, the Estrada incumbency forged a common dream in them. Suddenly, Bong wanted to become governor of Cavite, Rudy dreamt of becoming Quezon City mayor, while Phillip began thinking of running for vice mayor in Mandaluyong. (Can you imagine if all of them assumed public office? Why, they'd practically have a monopoly of Metro Manila!).

The three still nurture that dream now except that, among the four, only Bong's wife, Lani, is also intent on running for a public position, as mayor of Bacoor, come election time. (Many criticize this as the continuation of a political dynasty—but that's another column.)

Term

Meanwhile, Jinggoy has announced that he will simply finish his term as mayor of San Juan, and then that's it. Reportedly, he wants to give way to his friend Ronnie Zamora, who's running for the San Juan mayoralty. "No more politics for me," he seems to say.

Admittedly, between Bong and Jinggoy, I am much closer to the latter. I have had more chances to get to know Jinggoy and, through the years, I can honestly say that my friendship with him has survived the test of time.

I remember the first time I met Jinggoy because it was when my director-brother got him to play the lead in one of the first telenovelas on local TV, "The Dodie Boy Peñalosa Story," which I produced for Loca Productions. Even then, Jinggoy had an easy smile and was full of stories to tell.

After that, we became such good friends that even my staff became close to him. He'd hang around the office and everybody loved to have him around because he was such a jolly person.

REVILLA AND ESTRADA. Bosom buddies no more.

Transparent

It's easy to become friends with Jinggoy because he's the type of person whom you won't hesitate to approach. He's also very transparent: you'll know right away if he's upset or pleased about something. Jinggoy is also very good in handling asides or innuendoes, especially about his escapades. He never loses his temper and would be the first to laugh about them.

As for Bong, it was easy for me to like him because he married Lani. I became close to Lani when she was just a budding actress. Naturally, when they got married, it was inevitable for me to also form a deep friendship with her husband (in fact, I'm even godmother to their son, Jolo).

Bong is also a very likable person, if only because he's very good looking. Many girls I know fall in love with his eyes (even if they know that Bong's very much married), and understandably so.

Silent war

So what happens now? As the two continue to wage a silent war, the buzz about the situation is getting louder and louder: What's in store for the two friends? Will their friendship end on a sour note? Who could mediate between the two so they could patch up their rift? Is the wound so deep that nothing could ever heal it? Who should make the first move?

Those are the obvious questions. But what if they look at it this way: What if this is just another storm in their friendship they have to brave in order for it to get stronger?

"Nothing is permanent in this world except change"—True! And I hope Bong and Jinggoy realize that they cannot remain in public office forever. When all the power and money are stripped away one day, what are they going to show for it? A lifetime of friendship—*if* they play their cards right.

After all, real friendship, like love, is worth its weight in gold.

TOMAS. Scene stealer.

Jolina . . .

(From page G2)

just-opened OnStage Theater in Greenbelt. Staged by Nonon Padilla's Tanghalang Pilipino, the play stars Subas Herrero and Boboy Garrovillo alternating in the role of Mr. Galang, Josephine Roces-Chavez, Apa Ongpin, Richard Joson, Missy Maramara and topnotch funnymen Mitch Valdes, Bernardo Bernardo and Tessie Tomas alternating in the wacky role of the family maid, Emperatriz.

During the opening night, it was Tomas who provided the light moments in the otherwise "heavy" material. Tomas had perfect timing and she effortlessly stole the scenes from the others.

Herrero and Ongpin are perfectly cast as the father and son who are both steadfast and strong but not necessarily in synchronicity with each other's principles. Chavez, who played the family matriarch, came out polished and consistent but the same cannot be said of Maramara, playing her daughter, who got confused whether she wanted Kris Aquino, Lea Salonga or Delamar as her character study.

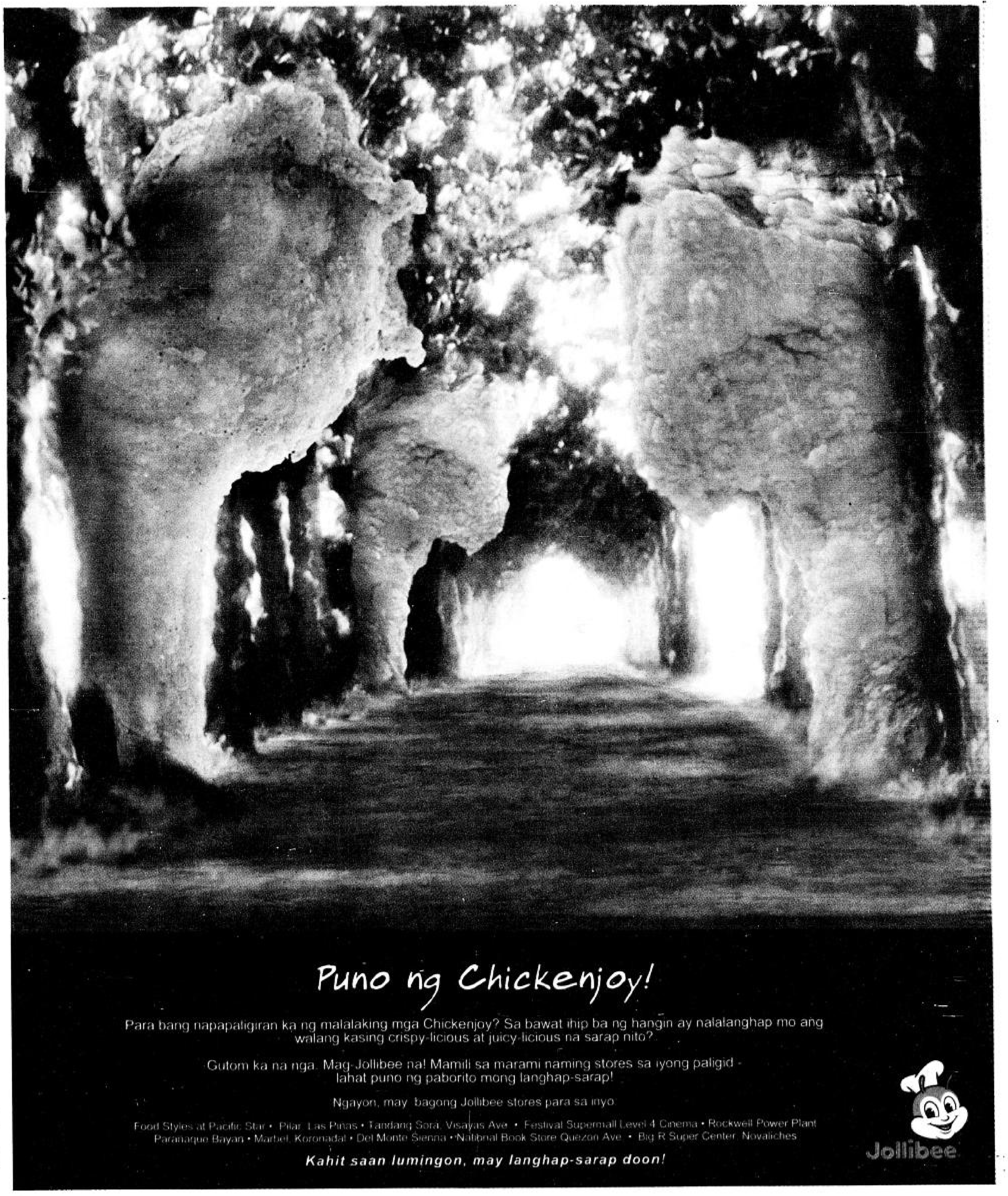
The chorus also got a few good laughs as it sang and danced to well-selected popular songs like Streisand's "Memories" and Aguilar's "Anak." Without the chorus and the role of Emperatriz, the play had a big tendency to slip into the land of magic boredom.

Even without knowing who Nick Joaquin was, anyone seated in the audience would know that the writer was of golden age, for everything that came out of the dialogue was so very '50s in both structure and style.

Take for instance the writer's frequent usage of the word "Alas!," which the text generation has not even heard of. Even the dramaturgy was so very '50s, which is a shame considering that the setting was pre-Martial Law up to the Cory days.

At the end, the play had to infuse some links to the recent Estrada circus act to make it timely and interesting—which worked wonders because, at the curtain call, it got the applause it wanted.

Catch "Pinoy Agonistes" when it moves to the CCP Little Theater this weekend. Call 832-1125 for inquiries.



Puno ng Chickenjoy!

Para bang napapaligiran ka ng malalaking mga Chickenjoy? Sa bawat ihip ba ng hangin ay nalalanghap mo ang walang kasing crispy-licious at juicy-licious na sarap nito?

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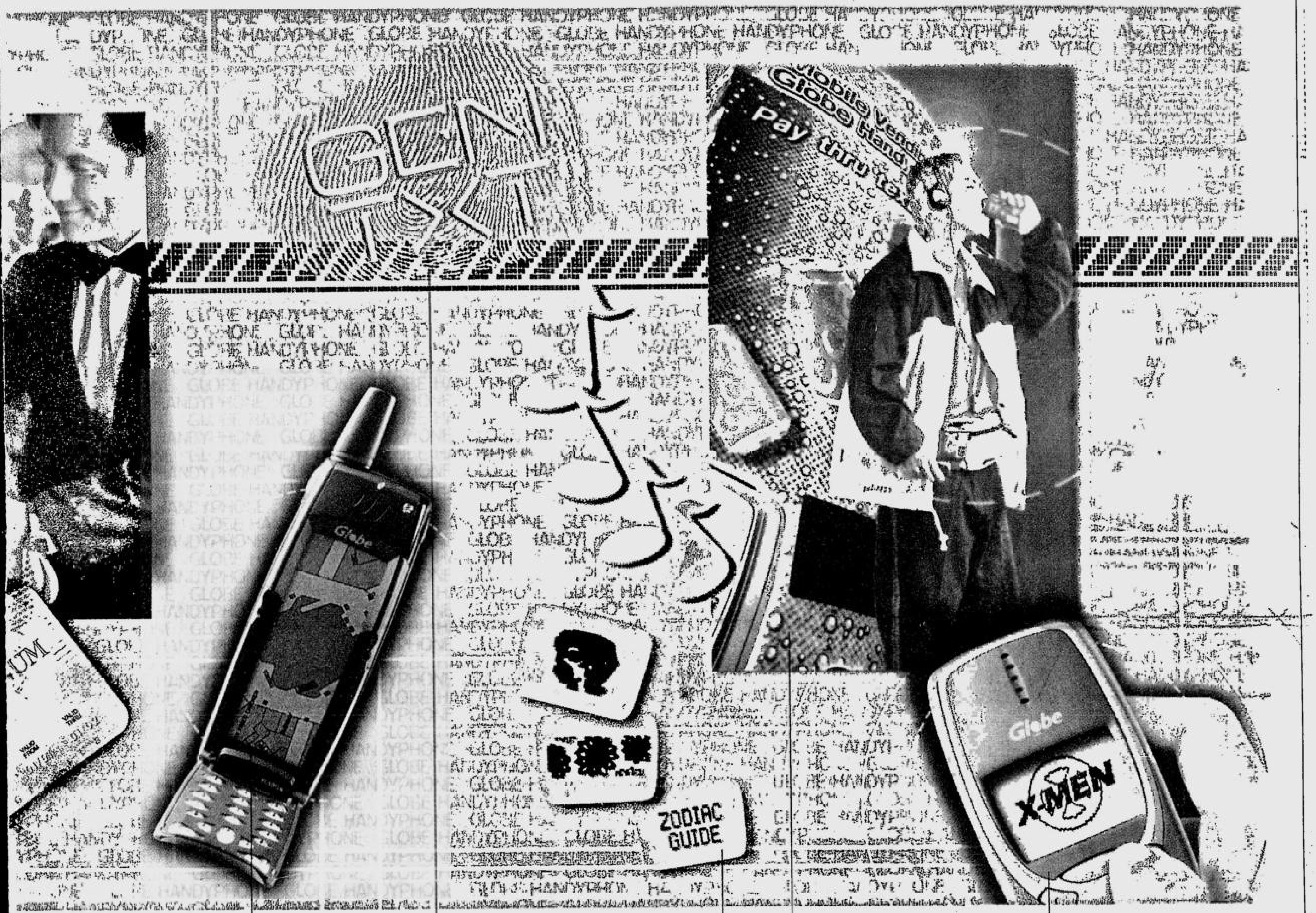

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Energy and shimmering sound characterize Popfilter's music

By Mary Ann A. Bautista

VIBRANT energy and shimmering sound pervade the stage in Robinsons Place as the members of Popfilter jam together. And although it appears to be an ordinary day, excitement is in the air as they rehearse for their mall tour for their new album under Alpha/Harmony Records.

Hard work

It's very common to hear that an album is a product of hard work, sweat and tears. But in Popfilter's case they literally had to sweat it out to record their album. They even incurred debts to finance the album independently.

"We became the 'frozen delight' in another record company but we wanted to do another album so we made this on our own. We solicited funds from our friends and family to do this. *Mahal mag*-record *ng* album, P1,000 per hour. We recorded the whole album in 15-20 days. *Minsan, sa isang gabi,* it would take us 6-10 hours to do a song," Melvin Makalinaw, (drums) recalls.

Richard Tan, manager of Parokya ni Edgar and The Teeth, feels that Popfilter already worked fast because The Teeth need 10 hours per song. Popfilter completed the whole album in 30 hours and just need to mix it.

Exchange deal

Benjune Tangkeko, guitars, shares, "*Kinapos kami ng bayad sa* recording—*buti na lang binigyan kami ng* chance *na tapusin yung buong album. Binigyan na lang kami ng* exchange deal."

They tightened their belts and suppressed their appetites to avoid unnecessary expenses. They brought their own food and took the bus or jeep with their instruments for recording sessions. Euwe Jacob, (bass guitars) and Melvin had day jobs while they were recording. Since recording and rehearsing are such hassles, why do they still hang on?

Benjune smiles, "Being in a band is one of the greatest jobs. Everyday is different because we don't stick to a routine. We don't know what to expect so it's exciting, it's unpredictable."

Melvin interjects, "When we go to the provinces, *libre lahat. Marami kaming napuntahan. Tapos, pag-uwi namin may* talent fee *pa kami.*"

POPFILTER. From left, Melvin Makalinaw (drums), Gerald Esguerra (lead vocals),Euwe Jacob (bass) and Benjune Tangkeko (guitars).

Perks

The perks, fame and the fortune can tempt young wannabe's into forming a band. But there's also a lot of uncertainty before they get to the top. The masses can be fickle-minded, so today's hottest band can be tomorrow's has-been. Five years down the road, how do they see themselves?

Gerald Esguerra, vocals, shakes his head, "*Walang* retirement. Involved *pa rin siguro ako sa banda.*"

Benjune nods, "I'd still be working within the music industry. Eager *kaming mag*-perform, *kaya* music *pa rin.*"

Since they got their band name from a microphone during a recording session, it's easy to see why they're very intense and passionate about their music.

They even create the most unusual song titles. "Superhero" is about being independent. They wrote the song for a girl who was always depending on her boyfriend to do things for her.

Daydreaming

"Butterflies" is about sex. "Na-Na Song" is about daydreaming and waiting for the right girl. "Portasound" is a Pinoy version of electronica. They seem really bent on making a difference, but do they plan to evolve along with musical trends?

Benjune notes that alternative music is expansive and progressive. He believes that, pretty soon, musicians will rely heavily on samplers and drum machines to create music. Nope, relying on technology won't hamper their creativity but even enhance it.

"Musicians still program the samplers, so the creativity is still there. U2 (band) started out with pop-electronika music, now they want their sound to be raw. *Paikot-ikot lang ang trend sa* music," says Melvin.

Covers

"We want to do covers along with our originals. We want to match the achievements of the E-heads, penetrate the market and leave our mark," he reveals.

Imprinting their music in the minds of today's Generation Xers' can happen if Popfilter presents something radical and new. Maybe jamming with their dream team (Basti Artadi of Wolfgang, Ely Buendia of the E-heads and Skarlet (aka Myra Ruaro) of Brown Beat All Stars) will create enough sparks to get attention.

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Drew Barrymore gets Harvard acting award

BOSTON—Actress Drew Barrymore came to Harvard to claim her Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year award, but first she had to complete a mission for her old boss Charlie: find the missing pot.

Film version

In a nod to her role in the film version of "Charlie's Angels," Barrymore on Thursday (Feb. 8) helped find the pot and spoof some of her films—including "E.T. The Extraterrestrial" and "The Wedding Singer"—at the prompting of an off-stage voice, an imitation of Charlie Townsend, the Angels' mysterious boss, who was heard but never seen.

Barrymore received the award and a roast of her career from members of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals, the nation's oldest undergraduate dramatic organization.

Geek

"I feel like a real geek a lot in life. I walk around my house hanging pictures and wondering what I could do better and where my life is going. So thank you very much, this is so cool," she said after receiving the brass pot, which miraculously appeared on stage when it was handed up from the orchestra pit below.

The 25-year-old actress also has starred in "Scream," "Poison Ivy" and "Boys on the Side." She will appear next in "Riding in Cars with Boys," directed by Penny Marshall.

Impressive contribution

The Hasty Pudding Award goes to performers who have made a "lasting and impressive contribution to the world of entertainment."

Previous winners include Jamie Lee Curtis, Billy Crystal, Goldie Hawn, Samuel L. Jackson, Sigourney Weaver, Kevin Kline, Julia Roberts and Mel Gibson.

Actor Anthony Hopkins is to receive the Man of the Year award on Thursday, when he'll attend the opening night performance of "Fangs for the Memories." *AP*

How to celebrate getting an Oscar nomination

The answer ranges from hugging the waitress to sipping martinis

BY BOB TOURTELLOTTE

LOS ANGELES—How do you celebrate getting an Oscar nomination? Well, it depends on the time zone, first, then the answer ranges from hugging the room service waitress, spending time with family to sipping martinis with friends.

Or, if you're French director Agnes Jaoui, whose romance "A Taste of Others" was nominated for best foreign language film, it means putting your clothes on before you squeal with delight.

Dressing room

Jaoui told Reuters she received the news of her Oscar nomination on Tuesday while she was in the dressing room of a Paris store, trying on a dress.

"I was perfectly nude when my cellphone rang and I learned I was nominated," said Jaoui. "I was standing in front of the mirror, and I just looked at myself ... No, I didn't scream because I was with people I didn't know very well."

Jaoui wasn't the only less than clothes person who got the nomination call.

Actress Marcia Gay Harden was in the shower in a hotel room in Denver when the phone began jumping off the hook. Getting dressed, Harden discovered that she had won a best supporting actress nomination for "Pollock" in which she plays the tough-talking New York artist Lee Krasner, artist Jackson Pollock's wife.

Thrilled

"I was in tears. I was so thrilled. I am in Denver and the only person I could share the news with was the room service waitress so I hugged her and now they are bringing me everything. Lee Krasner would have been a lot calmer than I am."

As usual it was before dawn, Los Angeles time, when the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences unveiled its annual list of nominees for the film industry's highest honors—the idea being to catch the tail end of the morning news shows in New York so they can broadcast it live.

Thus there were plenty of Angelenos still rolling around in bed with visions of Oscar dancing in their head—except for one. "I'll tell you, I was really excited about it this morning," said "Gladiator" producer Doug Wick. He said he tried to be calm about the nominations until early this morning.

"I bolted awake at 4 a.m. and couldn't go back to sleep. I turned out to be much less cool than I thought," he said.

Producing partner

His producing partner David Franzoni said when he heard the Roman Empire drama was the most nominated motion picture with a total of 12, he just started "jumping up and down."

He wasn't the only one with springs in his shoes. Across the country in New York where the nominations were announced around 8:40 a.m., director Ang Lee of "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," was returning to his office from an all-night movie shoot in New Jersey.

HARDEN. Best supporting actress nominee for "Pollock."

Lee said he learned of the nominations from the concierge in his building. By the time he'd reached his office, his staff was "jumping up and down, and that was on the eighth and ninth nomination." "Crouching Tiger," a Taiwanese film that mixes martial arts with a stirring romance, earned 10 nominations, second only to "Gladiator."

In the Westchester suburbs outside New York City, "Chocolat" producer Leslie Holleran said she was at her fourth grader's band recital, listening patiently and trying not to pay attention to her cellphone that she had set on buzz.

"We did get done in time to be home and hear it on the TV for ourselves," said Holleran. "It's the perfect Westchester working mother's morning. It couldn't get any better."

Shopkeeper

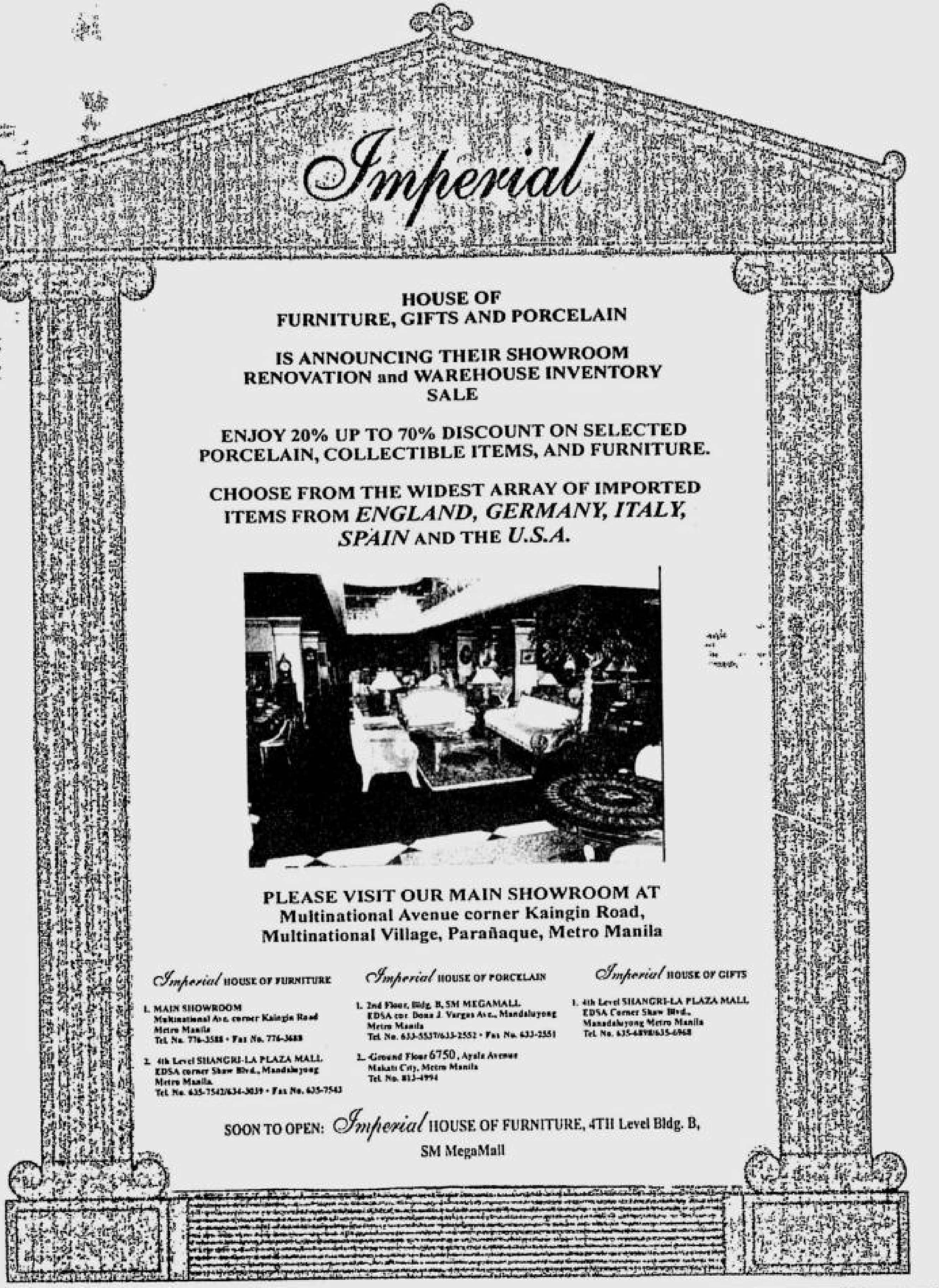
Across the Atlantic—in France, again—Juliette Binoche who portrays a shopkeeper who teaches a French village lessons in tolerance in "Chocolat," celebrated her best actress nomination with her boyfriend, cuddled up and sipping champagne.

In Spain, actor Javier Bardem, whose role as a gay Cuban novelist in "Before Night Falls" earned him a nomination for best actor, was having a few beers with friends at just around 6 p.m. when he heard the news.

"My friends have been calling and saying, 'Hi Javier. What time?' And I say 11 (p.m.). They don't even have to ask if I'm having a party, it's just, 'what time?'"

Back in Los Angeles where it all started Tuesday morning, Kenneth Lonergan, whose indie hit "You Can Count on Me" about a brother/sister relationship earned him a screenwriting Oscar nomination, planned much the same evening as Bardem.

Except, Lonergan said, he will be out on the town, sipping martinis. *Reuters*



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Bacall credits mother for her success

ROCHESTER, New York—Looking back, Lauren Bacall credits one person for her illustrious career—her mother.

"I can never talk enough about her because she was such a gift," the 76-year-old actress said on Monday in Rochester. "The best of me came from her."

Sacrifices

She thanked her mother, Natalie Perske, for the sacrifices she made so Bacall could pursue acting. When her father abandoned the family, her mother worked six days a week as an executive secretary to support her, Bacall said in her trademark smoky voice.

More than 1,100 people came to Auditorium Center to hear Bacall speak during the opening night of Rochester's "Unique Lives & Experiences" series. The five-part series, which runs through May, focuses on the lives of famous women.

Married

Bacall, born Betty Joan Perske in September 1924, first set the screen on fire with Humphrey Bogart in 1944's "To Have and Have Not." She married Bogart the next year.

Bacall starred in such hits as "The Big Sleep" (1946), "Dark Passage" (1947), "Key Largo" (1948) and "How to Marry a Millionaire" (1953). Her marriage to Bogart ended with his death in 1957. *AP*

BACALL. "The best of me came from her."

FAT show stars Pops and Side A

IT'S every concert producer's dream—to put together in one show two of the biggest names on the concert scene. And it took "youth power" to realize it.

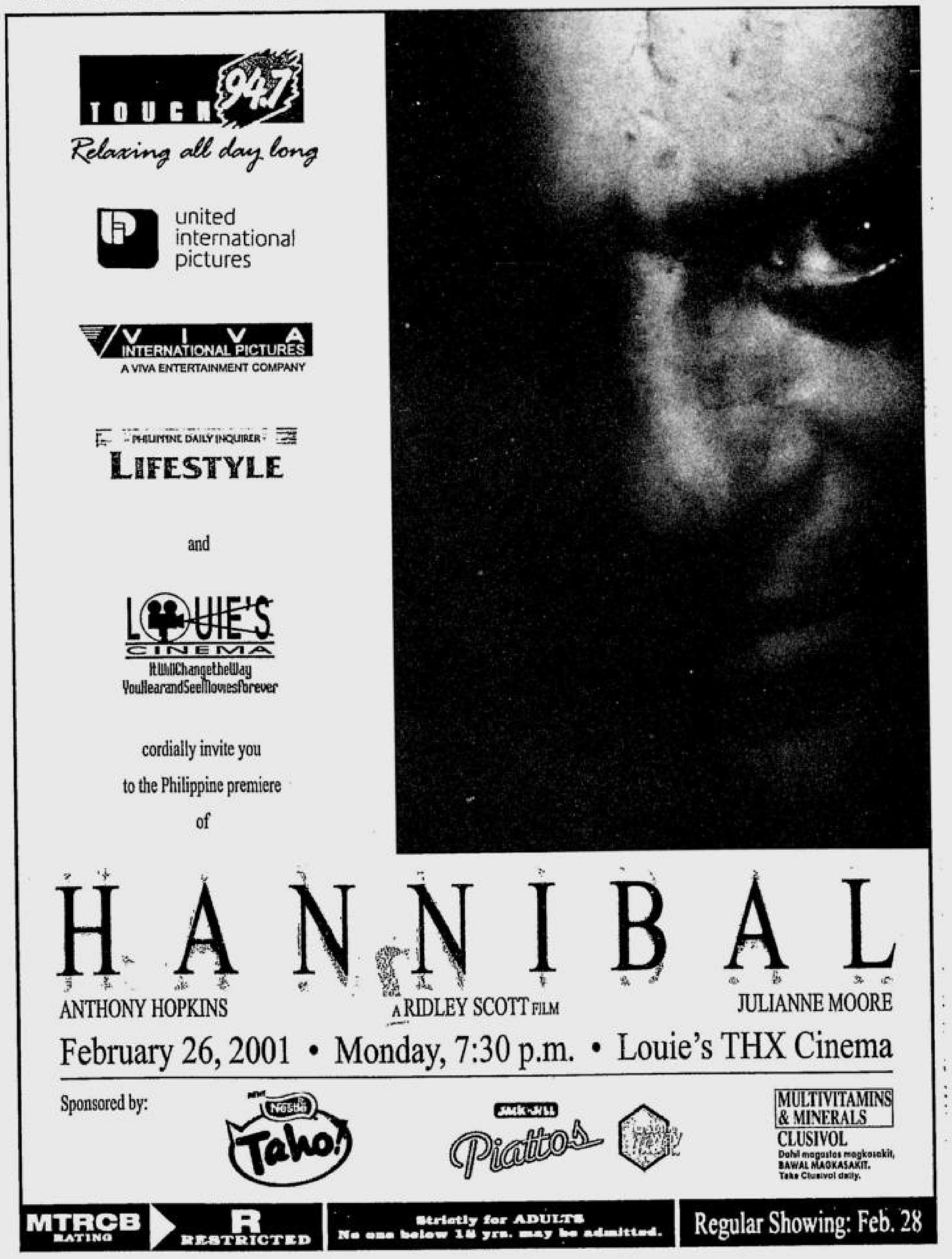
At 8 p.m. today at the Folk Arts Theater, concert-lovers can watch Pops Fernandez and Side A (Joey Generoso, Kelly Badon, Naldy Gonzales, Joey Benin and Ernie Severino) in the show, "What You See Is What You Get (WYSIWYG)." Also featured are the Manoeuvers, the Hotlegs Dancers and the Opera.

Dream concert

It will be a night not only of songs but also of dancing. It's the 8 Designs and Marketing group which is making this dream concert possible with the help of sponsors like STI, Don Henrico's, Grand Boulevard Hotel, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Joey 92.3, 100.3 The Hive, Manila Bulletin, Magic 89.9, Citylite 88.3 and Klite 103.5.

8 Designs and Marketing was organized in 1998. The company's strength lies in the diversified experiences of its members, who variously come from advertising, marketing, sales, events management, public relations, publishing and merchandising.

FERNANDEZ. A night of songs and dancing.



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Getting to know some new Oscar nominees

By Nestor U. Torre

THIS year's Oscar nominees include quite a number of familiar names like Tom Hanks, Julia Roberts, Judi Dench, Jeff Bridges and Ridley Scott, but some new contenders are practically begging for an introduction:

Javier Bardem

Topping the list is best actor Javier Bardem.—Javier *who*? He plays the male lead in Julian Schnabel's "Before Night Falls" and his portrayal of persecuted gay Cuban writer Reinaldo Arenas has been praised for its "stunning believability."

Did the exciting talent suddenly spring full-blown on the screen after a lifetime of anonymity? It only *feels* that way. Actually, Bardem is a big star in Spain, and played the villain in the James Bond film, "The World Is Not Enough." But "Before Night Falls" is his biggest break in global cinema, and Bardem has taken full advantage of it.

Few people give him much of a chance to score an upset over his fellow nominees—Russell Crowe, Tom Hanks, Ed Harris, Geoffrey Rush—but just making it to their league in the Oscars is already sweet victory for the heretofore unheralded Bardem. If he plays his cards right, he can give fellow Spaniard Antonio Banderas a run for his money in international films.

Laura Linney

Laura Linney has been around in Hollywood, playing good roles in movies like "The Truman Show," but it's her performance in "You Can Count on Me" that has finally given the 37-year-old actress some real cachet.

Of course, it's generally conceded that Julia Roberts will run off with this year's Best Actress plum. But Linney has served notice with her first Academy nomination that she will continue to be a contender in the years to come, like her other co-nominees, Joan Allen, Ellen Burstyn and Juliette Binoche, whose names keep cropping up when awards season comes around each year.

Benicio Del Toro

In the Best Supporting actor category, it's Benicio Del Toro who's the dark horse, mainly because viewers don't know much about him. With a name like that, you'd expect him to be nothing more than a film stud, but Del Toro has proven otherwise with his on-target portrayal of a cop in Steven Soderbergh's "Traffic."

Del Toro was first noticed when he played a talkative crook in "The Usual Suspects," some five years ago. In "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas," he showed that he could get unhinged with terrifying ferocity.

In "Traffic," his character is much more laid-back, but his performance comes through with haunting lucidity precisely because he just plays each scene, with no melodramatic strings attached.

There are those who believe that, despite his coming into his own as an actor relatively late in the day (he's 34), Del Toro has what it takes to become a major tough-but-sensitive performer like Jack Nicholson, Al Pacino, Robert De Niro and—Del Toro's absolute idol—Marlon Brando.

His moves and acting choices after the Oscars (win or lose!) will either confirm or confound that daunting prediction.

Kate Hudson

Del Toro's counterpart in the Best Supporting Actress category is Kate Hudson, the ingenue lead in Cameron Crowe's "Almost Famous."

HUDSON. Has already won a Golden Globe for her performance in "Almost Famous."

Only 21, Hudson did so well in the film as a band groupie in the '70s that she has been nominated along with much more experienced and consistently "awardable" actresses like Frances McDormand, Judi Dench and Julie Walters.

Clearly, she has something good going for her, aside from her pert good looks, which are a dime a dozen in Hollywood.—Like great performing genes, for instance: Hudson's mother is Goldie Hawn—who, as fortuitous "coincidence" has it, won over 30 years ago the very same award that her daughter is now vying for.

Does Hudson have even the ghost of a chance against her illustrious rivals? Well, she's already won a Golden Globe for her performance in "Almost Famous," so things are looking up!

Marcia Gay Harden

Another relatively unknown Best Supporting Actress nominee is Marcia Gay Harden, who plays the wife of "action" painter Jackson Pollock in "Pollock." Harden stands out in the film due to her brassy and vivid portrayal.

She began her acting career onstage and performed a lot abroad before she made her film debut a decade ago in the Coen brothers' "Miller's Crossing."

She didn't appear in many movies, but she did act with Ed Harris in Sam Shepard's play, "Simpatico." So, when she heard that Harris was planning to star in and direct "Pollock," she didn't feel shy about asking him if she could audition for a role in his movie.

Well, her gumption has paid off in heaps for Harden, whose nomination is sure to give her on-and-off movie career a big boost from here on in.

BARDEM. Plays the male lead role in "Before Night Falls."

Soderbergh and Clooney work on 'Ocean's 11' remake

By John Curran

ATLANTIC CITY, New Jersey—The baccarat pit at Trump Plaza Hotel & Casino became a movie set as director Steven Soderbergh, heartthrob George Clooney and dozens of behind-the-scenes workers began filming "Ocean's 11," a big-budget remake of the 1960 Rat Pack movie.

Dealer

Blackjack tables went quiet, giant lighting standards were erected and $ 75-a-day extras waited for their moments of glory as Soderbergh, who was nominated as best director for "Erin Brockovich" and "Traffic," filmed a scene in which Danny Ocean (Clooney) sat at a table, talking to dealer Frank (comedian Bernie Mac).

Curious fans, kept at bay behind black rope, strained for a glimpse of Clooney, who wore a beige houndstooth blazer and maroon dress shirt, open at the collar.

"Oh, God, there he is! There he is, right there!" squealed 44-year-old Donna Culp. "He's just as handsome as I thought. He's gorgeous."

"Control yourself," said Joe Strucich, 67, who was standing behind her.

Ex-con

Clooney plays an ex-con who recruits 10 old friends to help him with a casino heist. The film also stars Julia Roberts, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, Andy Garcia, Don Cheadle and Elliott Gould.

But Clooney is the only star in Atlantic City for two days of location shoots at Trump Plaza, Caesars Atlantic City Hotel Casino and the White House Sub Shop.

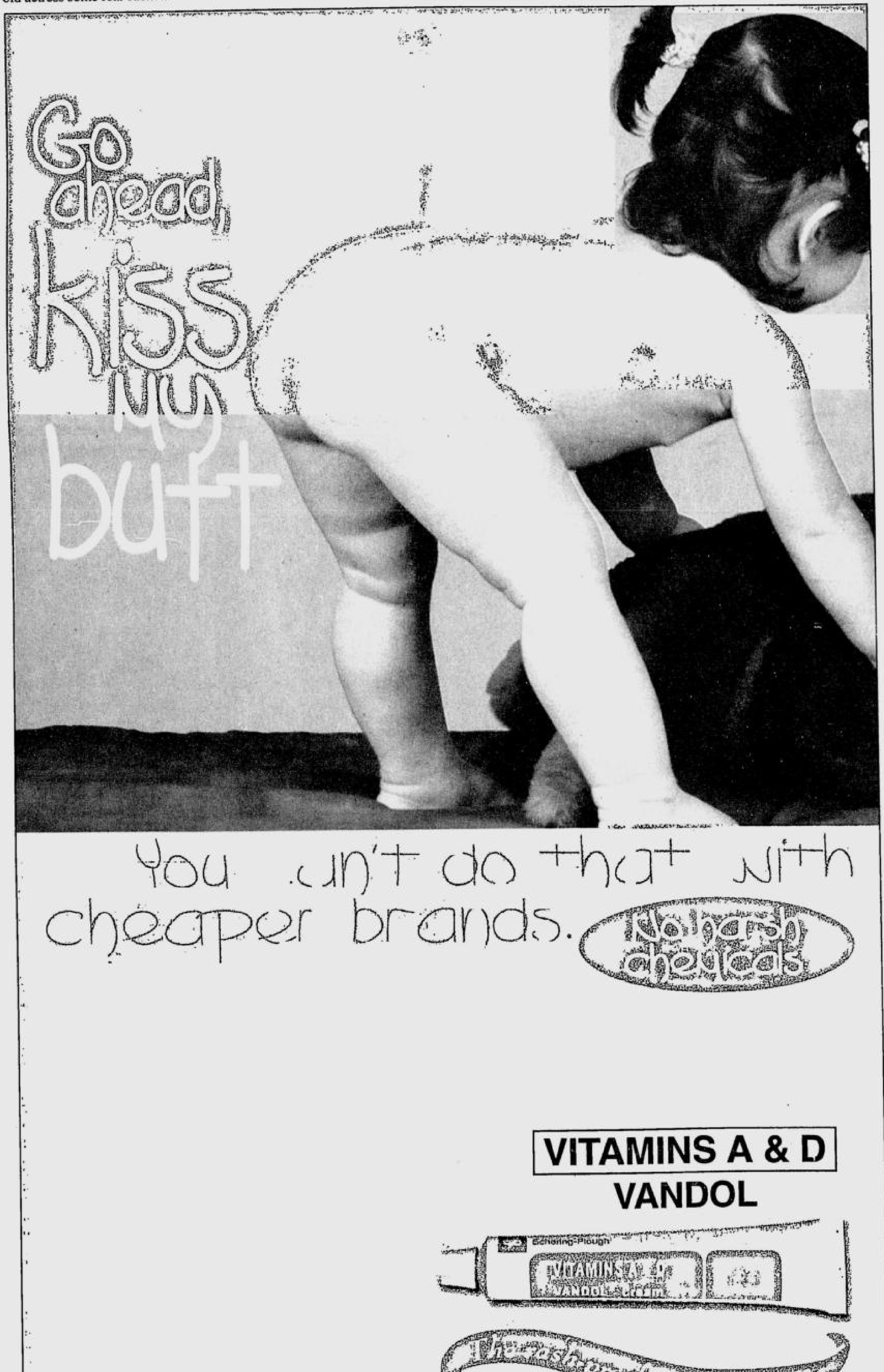
CLOONEY. Cast as an ex-con who gets his friends to help him rob a casino.

A couple of blocks down Mississippi Avenue, at the sandwich shop, the waitresses and customers were all abuzz about Wednesday's filming there.

Since it was closed for the shoot, the movie makers are compensating the sub shop for the lost business. The shop typically sells 6,000 subs a day, at about $ 5 per sub.

"We're very excited," said Phil LaRocca, a 46-year employee and the shop's unofficial spokesman. "We haven't had a movie filmed here since 1979."

That was "Atlantic City," starring Burt Lancaster and Susan Sarandon. *AP*



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Puwede ba akong sumali sa choir?
GUYITO

Junior INQUIRER

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Choir Boy Chronicles

BY GABRIEL MARTIN N. DOLLER
JI CORRESPONDENT
ATENEO DE MANILA GRADE SCHOOL

THERE were small voices, nervous people, there was excitement, tapping feet, chanting and shouting.

Was this Edsa II? Nah.

Was this a rave party? Nope. A James Bond thriller? Not at all!

It was a concert of children's choirs, called "Samu't Saring Tinig" held at the Cultural Center of the Philippines on Feb. 1.

I was there as part of the Ateneo Boys' Choir. There were six other children's choirs: St. Scholastica's College Children's Choir, Bagong Silang Elementary School Choir, UP Cherubim and Seraphim, De La Salle Zobel Children's Chorale, Immaculate Conception Parish Children's Choir and Paref Woodrose Choir.

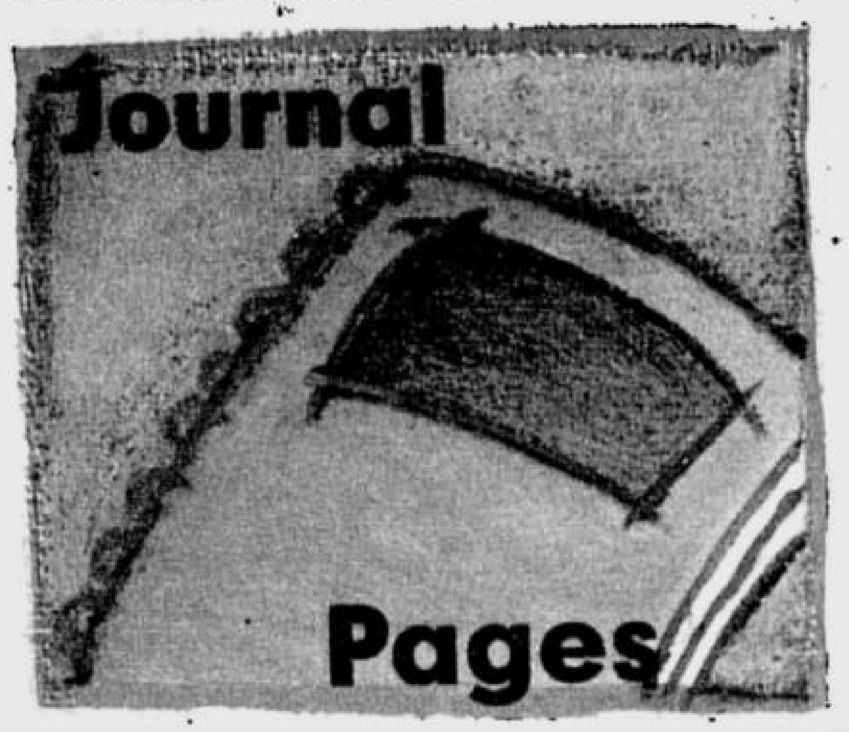
What's it like to be part of something like this. Well, read on and I'll tell you.

Choir Boy/ p.5

HERE WE GO! De la Salle-Zobel inspires the crowd.

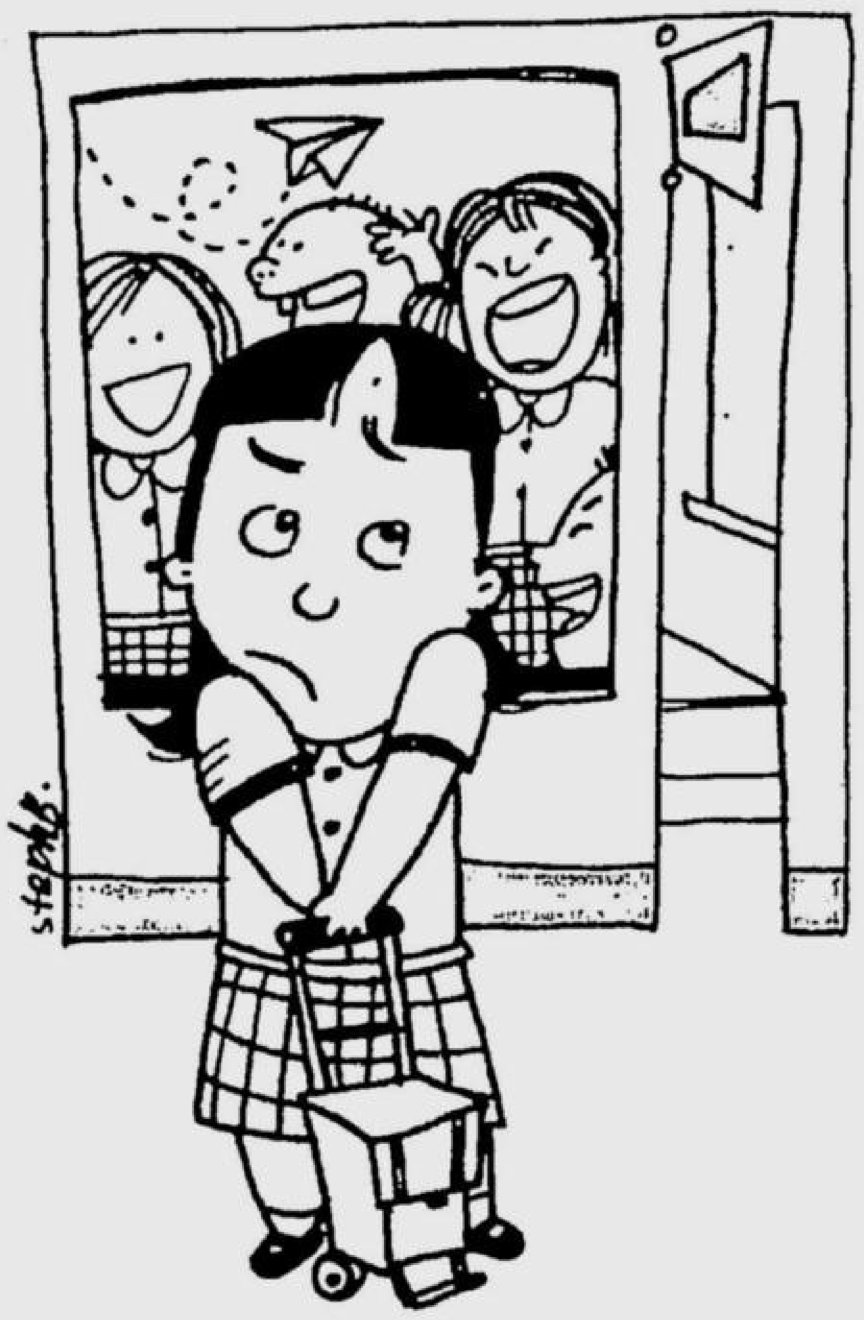
ANGELS. Heavenly high notes are a piece of cake for the U.P. Cherubim and Seraphim.

Photos by BETOY JOHNSON



New class, new friends

BY STEPHANIE C. FERRER
ST. JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
QUEZON CITY



SOMETIMES it's kinda depressing looking at last school year's class picture. Especially, when your best friends are in different sections. And your favorite teachers last school year are on the same grade level. Let me tell you something…

When I was in Grade 5, I had five friends: Kathrine, Czareena, Airene, Gerlin, and Jerika. Our class was the most behaved class in the whole grade level. Our class adviser, Ms Apdan was very nice and one of my favorites. Throughout the school year I shared my joys, sorrows, problems, and triumph with my classmates, teachers, and friends. Of course, the school year had to end. We were happy on the last day of classes, of course. All of us were looking forward to a fun, stress-free, perfect summer.

The first days of June, I was a little disappointed. My best friends were not in my class. Sometimes, I see my friends passing by the corridors and I say "Hi" or have a very short chat. But most of the time I secretly feel sad not being with them. Sometimes I also see Ms Apdan and say a simple "Good morning." Once I also went to visit her in her classroom. I miss her and my classmates. I wished that last school year hadn't ended.

Now I was surprised because even though it's still August, I already have new best friends: Joyce and Frances. I also have weird classmates like Gene, Erik, and Mark Justin. There are always class clowns like Jayjay, Archie, and Jonathan, and a few friends like Clarice, Kristina, Christina, Carmela, Frances D., etc. Unlike last school year, our class is the noisiest in Grade 6. Our class adviser, Ms Labilles, is also nice and patient with us. (I just wish the class wasn't so noisy!)

I learned to move on. I know that I'll have a fun and memorable school year (especially since we are already graduating). I know that I'll experience and learn new things with my new teachers, friends, and classmates. I'll cherish my classmates and the school year while I'm still in it. But I know that I will keep my old friends a special place in my heart.

Sound Familiar?
Write down your thoughts now and send them to JI. Who knows, you might just get published!

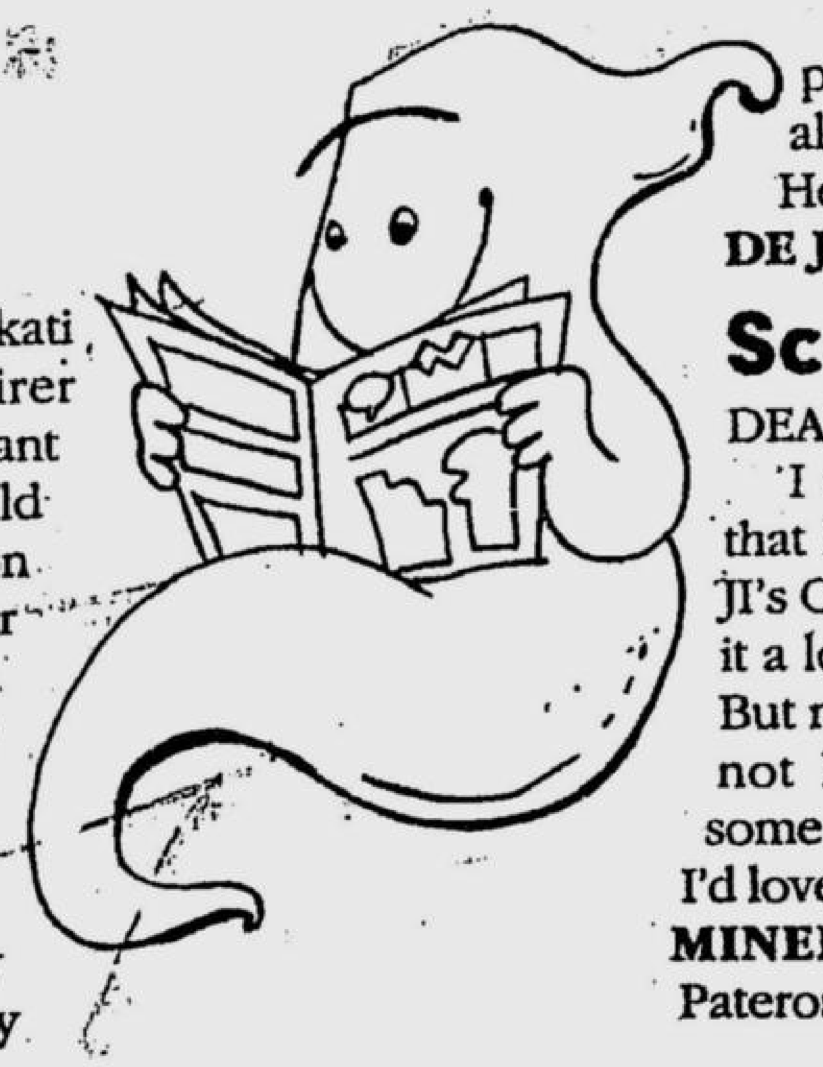
Straight from JI Readers

You can now reach us via e-mail! Our address is ji@inquirer.com.ph Don't forget to include your complete name, age, snail mail address and your phone number. Hope to hear from you soon!

More articles on animals

DEAR Editor,

I AM a high school student in Makati and I enjoy reading Junior Inquirer because you write about issues important to young people and adults. I would like to suggest that you reserve a section about caring for animals. Use your paper to drum up support for animals. Urge students to report to police or authorities acts of cruelty to these helpless creatures. Help the welfare of animals through your articles. Because of these hard times nobody cares for animals anymore. Greedy people sell them to be killed, all because of a few pesos. Help them please!—**DANIEL DE JESUS,** Makati City



Scary stories

DEAR Editor,

I appreciate the scary stories that kids like me had written in JI's Oct. 28, 2000 issue. I enjoyed it a lot and it really spooked me. But may I suggest that even if it's not Halloween, there will be some scary stories in your page? I'd love to hear from kids like me.—**MINEHAHA V. CAPCO,** 12, Pateros, Metro Manila

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WORLD SCOPE

Hope for strays?

ROMANIAN animal lovers display their dogs during a protest against plans by mayor Traian Basescu to reduce the number of stray dogs, estimated now at 200,000 in the Romanian capital. Last year, some 22,000 residents were treated for dog bites, many of whom received anti-rabies shots. Now if only more people adopt stray dogs rather than buying from pets stores. ***AP***

Orphan chickens

AWAITING adoption, chickens saved from the tornado-devastated Buckeye Egg farm in Croton, Ohio, late September 2000, enjoy the view at the Ooh-Mah-Nee Farm animal sanctuary in Feb. 5, 2001. The lives of about 6,000 of the one million chickens at the megafarm were saved by activists from Ohio, Pennsylvania and New York. "We're looking for life long homes for these animals," said sanctuary co-owner Cayce Mell. "We want people to adopt them for the hens sake and not their own." ***AP***

Bucharest
Hunker, Pennsylvania
Tokyo
Tokyo
Saydel

Cute, but not for sale

POPULAR kiddie characters from TV's "Sesame Street" are made into Japanese traditional *hina* dolls at Tokyo's Kuramae dolls company. Company president, President Akimasa Goto, shown in the photo, says the set was made to attract customers and it is not for sale. Japan traditionally celebrates dolls' festival on March 3. ***AP***

Rare Valentine's Day gift

A DNA Bank employee displays the company's new product, the DNA pendant. Targeting on the St. Valentine's Day gift shopping, the biotechnology company sells the accessory containing your ultimate self: your gene. The pendant costs $43, or a little more than P2,000. In the picture the DNA is seen as a white dot at the bottom of the bottle. DNA stands for deoxyribonucleic acid and it's a very tiny part of our cells which contain a human being's genetic characteristics. ***AP***

Guinea pig breeder

HIGH SCHOOL teacher Mike Bechtel holds hairless guinea pigs from among animals his zoology students care for in Saydel High School. Iowa State University experts say Bechtel is one of nine breeders of hairless guinea pigs in the world. ***AP***

By Marlet D. Salazar

Got something for Out There?
Send us the info two weeks in advance. Our fax numbers are 897-4793 up to 94. Don't forget to include your contact numbers and addresses.

Stuff

NEW BOOK. There's a new book out about the plight of the Philippine eagle. "Fly, Malaya, Fly" is by mother and son team, Grace May Chong and Juan Ruffo, that tells of a mother eagle and her child. "Fly, Malaya, Fly" is sponsored by Caltex Philippines and is now out in bookstores near you. Grab your copy now!

Play

SHAKESPEARE'S IN LOVE. Check out St. Scholastica's staging of William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" today at Cecilia Hall theater, St. Scholastica's College, Manila. Watch the Grade 6 students of SSC as they give life to the King of Shadows and the Faerie Queen play their games of romance. "A Midsummer Night's Dream" is directed by Prof. Naty Crame Rogers. For more information call 524-7686 and ask for the Grade School Department.

Activities

BIYAHENG ADARNA. Ready for take off as Jollibee and Adarna House once again bring the "Biyaheng Adarna" project to different parts of Metro Manila. It aims to promote the value of reading through free books, and exciting activities like games and storytelling. Wait for them when they visit your community any time this year. Today, they'll be in Caloocan City.

Contest

STUDENT MASS MEDIA AWARDS. The Catholic Mass Media Awards (CMMA) will recognize outstanding student journalists and school publications. Join the 1st Student Catholic Mass Media Awards. The categories include: best short film (documentary or narrative), best student publication, best literary publication (magazine or folio), best news photo, best TV production (documentary or narrative) best radio production (documentary or narrative); and best public service ad. You can send your entries to CMMA Secretariat, 5/F, Dominga Bldg. Pasong Tamo, corner Dela Rosa St., Makati City. For more important info please call 812-1833, 867-4026, 892-4779.

Workshops

SUMMER WRITING. Public school students ages 11-16 can participate in a free writing workshop to be held by the Junior Writers' Club this summer. Just prepare the following stuff for screening: a letter of intent, a clear photocopy of your school ID, your principal's or teacher's recommendation, and self-addressed stamped envelope. Mail these to: Junior Writers' Club, PO Box 355, PCPO, Pasay City, 1301. Deadline for submission is on March 25. Hurry, the workshop begins on April.

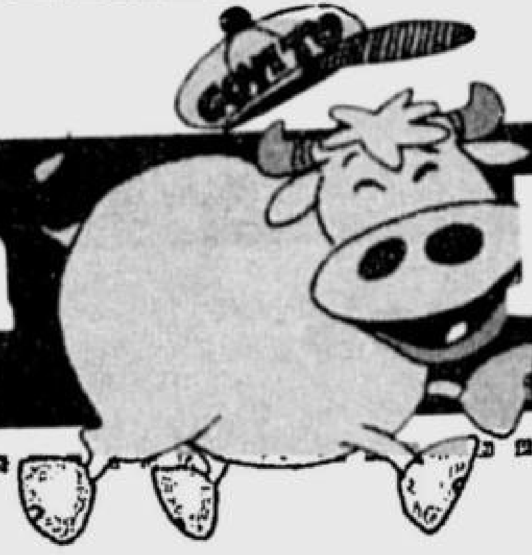
Museum Moments

CHEMAGIC. Learn some magic tricks using the principles of Chemistry. It's Chemistry week you know. Come and celebrate it with members of the Philippine Normal University Chemicla Society. That's today at 2 p.m. at Museo Pambata, Roxas Boulevard, corner South Drive, Manila. For inquiries call 523-1798.

Cable Picks

MAYA'S KINGDOM. Once considered to be a peaceful people, the image of Maya is slowly collapsing as new clues to the breakdown of their civilization are unearthed by archaeologists. National Geographic Channel attempts to find the "Lost Kingdom of the Maya" on Feb. 26 at 10 p.m.

Wanna be a JI correspondent?



WRITE an essay about your most amazing, weirdest, strangest daydream and send it to us on or before **March 5.**

Don't forget to include a piece of paper that has your name, age, address, contact number, school, e-mail address and parents' or guardian's names. Submit your essays typewritten and double-spaced on short bond paper. Mail it to:

I wanna be a JI correspondent!
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1263 Makati City

Choir Boy Chronicles

(from page1)

No cold drinks

In the Ateneo Boy's Choir, we had been practicing our songs for the concert almost everyday since January. That's Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday. We had to practice tricky notes and complicated dance steps. And we had to give up cold drinks! But it was fun despite all the tiring activities. I feel great satisfaction in the hardships we went through. And we all knew we were going to perform well.

Girls! Yehey!

There was some kind of silent anticipation as we boarded the bus going to the CCP. Sure, we missed a whole day of classes and still have to hurdle make-up quizzes. But nothing 1 beat the excitement of singing in a world-class theater for the first time, meeting other people and girls. Girls, most specially.

We were all awed when we got inside the *Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino*, or the CCP Little Theater. There was a big stage, hundreds of lights, and hundreds of seats. In a few minutes we would all be performing before a huge audience!

Dressing room squeeze

It was a miracle how all of us choirs from the seven schools managed to fit into four cramped dressing rooms! Anyway, we managed to change into our costumes and squeeze back to the stage for the grand choir's rehearsal of "*Munting Tinig*."

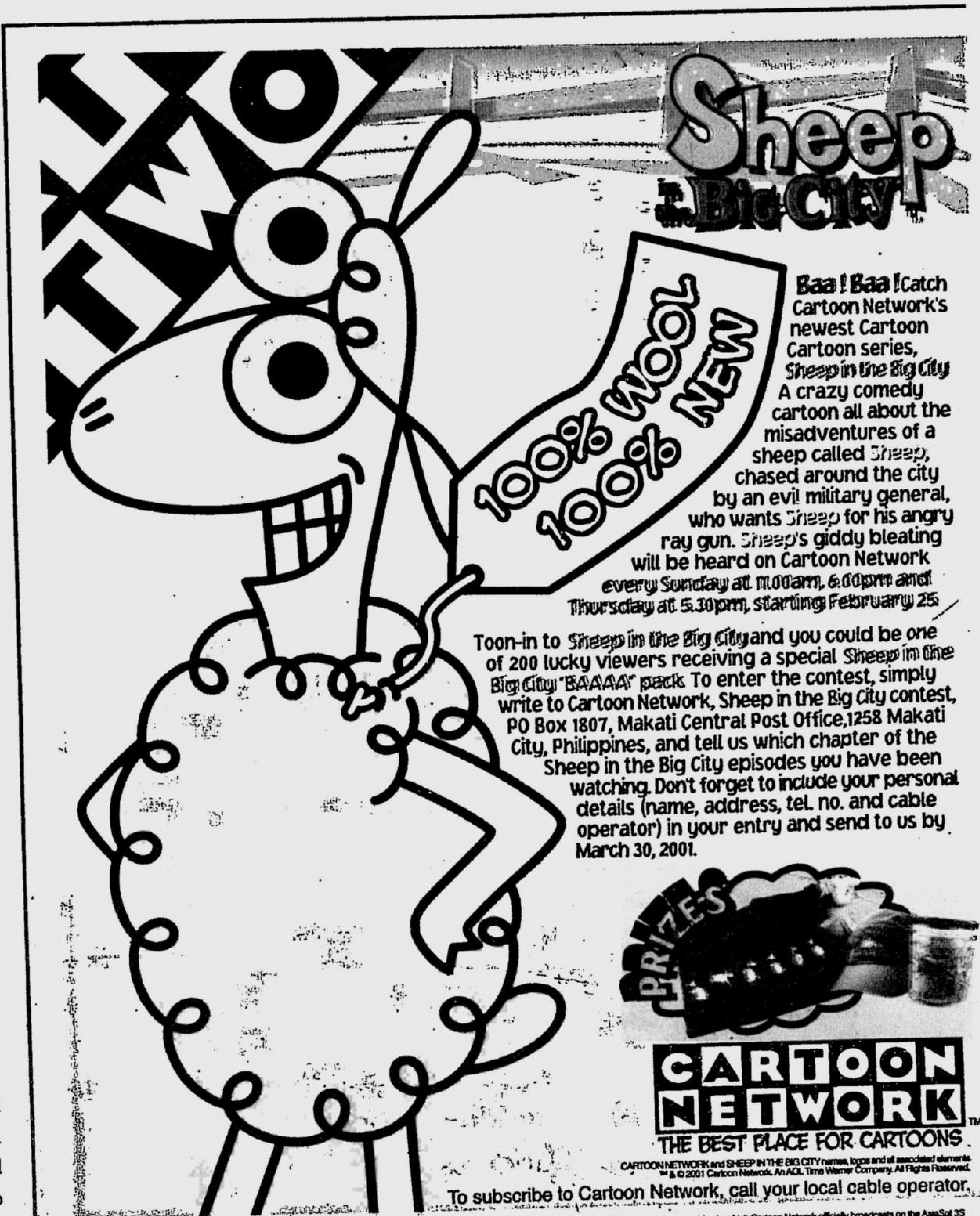
I got to meet six new friends from six different schools as the Grand Choir conductor, Dr. Elena Rivera Mirano, asked us to do. It seemed like the theatre had been turned into a zoo with all its animals set free greeting and talking to each other.

When all the "animals" had settled down, Dr. Mirano arranged us all according to our voices on stage. It was quite hard adjusting with the other choirs and finding my own voice or melody group because the voices blended in most portions of the song. Sometimes I couldn't make it out parts of the harmony. We were all a bit sweaty when we finished, and then we headed back to our dressing rooms.

My beating heart

There was a gentle bell sound that tinkled slowly at first. But then it kept tinkling faster.

Choir/ p.11



Baa ! Baa ! Catch Cartoon Network's newest Cartoon Cartoon series, Sheep in the Big City A crazy comedy cartoon all about the misadventures of a sheep called Sheep, chased around the city by an evil military general, who wants Sheep for his angry ray gun. Sheep's giddy bleating will be heard on Cartoon Network every Sunday at 11.00am, 6.00pm and Thursday at 5.30pm, starting February 25

Toon-in to Sheep in the Big City and you could be one of 200 lucky viewers receiving a special Sheep in the Big City "BAAAA" pack To enter the contest, simply write to Cartoon Network, Sheep in the Big City contest, PO Box 1807, Makati Central Post Office,1258 Makati City, Philippines, and tell us which chapter of the Sheep in the Big City episodes you have been watching. Don't forget to include your personal details (name, address, tel. no. and cable operator) in your entry and send to us by March 30, 2001.

CARTOON NETWORK™
THE BEST PLACE FOR CARTOONS

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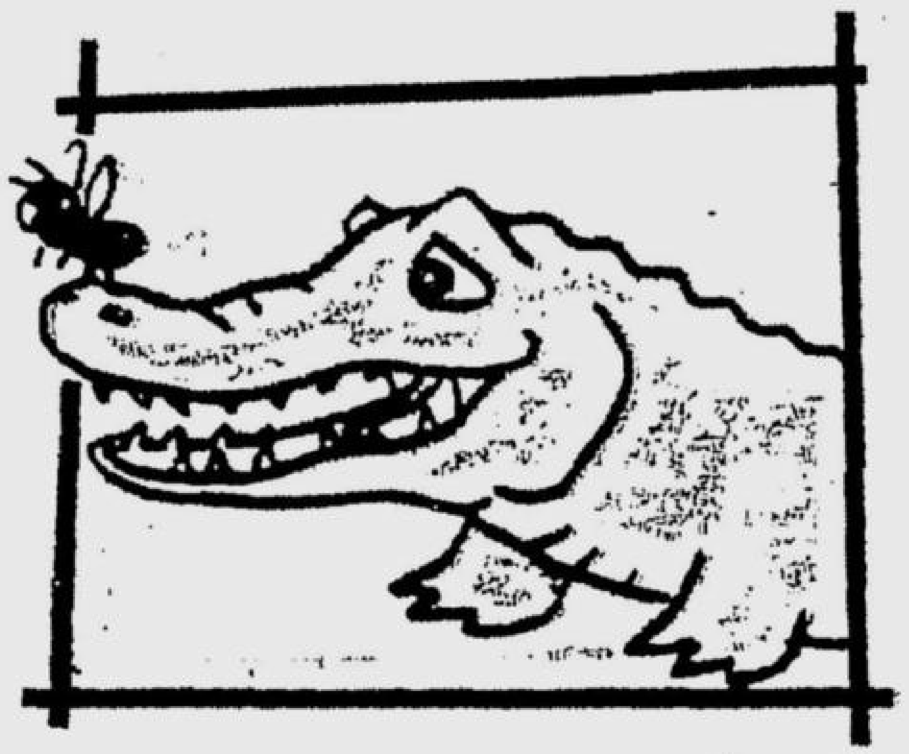
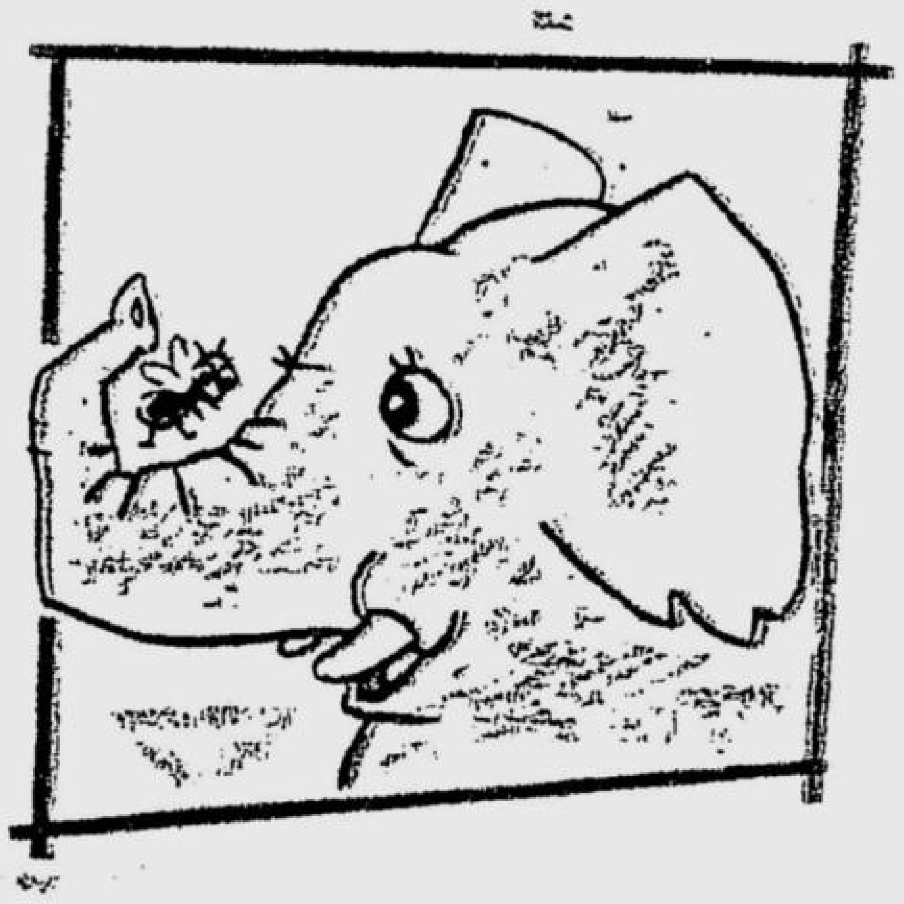
To subscribe to Cartoon Network, call your local cable operator.

Competition fine print : 1. No purchase is necessary to participate in the competition. 2. The competition is open to residents of Philippines and all other countries to which Cartoon Network officially broadcasts on the AsiaSat 3S Satellite only and is void where prohibited. 3. Employees (and their relatives) of Time Warner, Inc., its affiliates, subsidiaries and advertising agencies are not eligible to participate in this competition. 4. All material submitted to the competition Organiser by any competition entrant will become the property of the Organiser and may be used by the Organiser in all media without any further reference to compensation to the competition entrant. No such material will be returned to the competition entrant. 5. The first 200 valid entries drawn will receive a Sheep in the Big City "BAAAA" pack. 6. The decision of the competition Organiser will be final and binding. 7 The competition's prizes are non-transferable and may not be redeemed for cash. 8. The winners of the prizes will be notified by mail. 9. The Organiser, its affiliates and employees make no representations or warranties about the quality or safety of the competition's prizes. 10. The Organiser, its affiliates and employees reserve the right to substitute any prize for an item of equal value at any time. 11 The Organiser, its affiliates and employees are not liable for any damage to or loss of prizes caused during delivery (if applicable). 12. The competition ends on March 30, 2001. 13. The " Organiser" of the competition is TCM Turner Classic Movies & Cartoon Network. 14. None of the above paragraphs limits any other.





STORY AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY R

IT was the first day of the world, and in this world lived a beetle. He looked around at his surroundings and marveled at everything which was new. When he had seen all he could see in his corner of the world, he decided to go out to find new wonders. He traveled beyond to other lands and was astonished at how brilliant everything was.

After much traveling, he landed before another of the world's new creatures.

"What are you?" the beetle asked.

"I'm a Lion!" the creature growled.

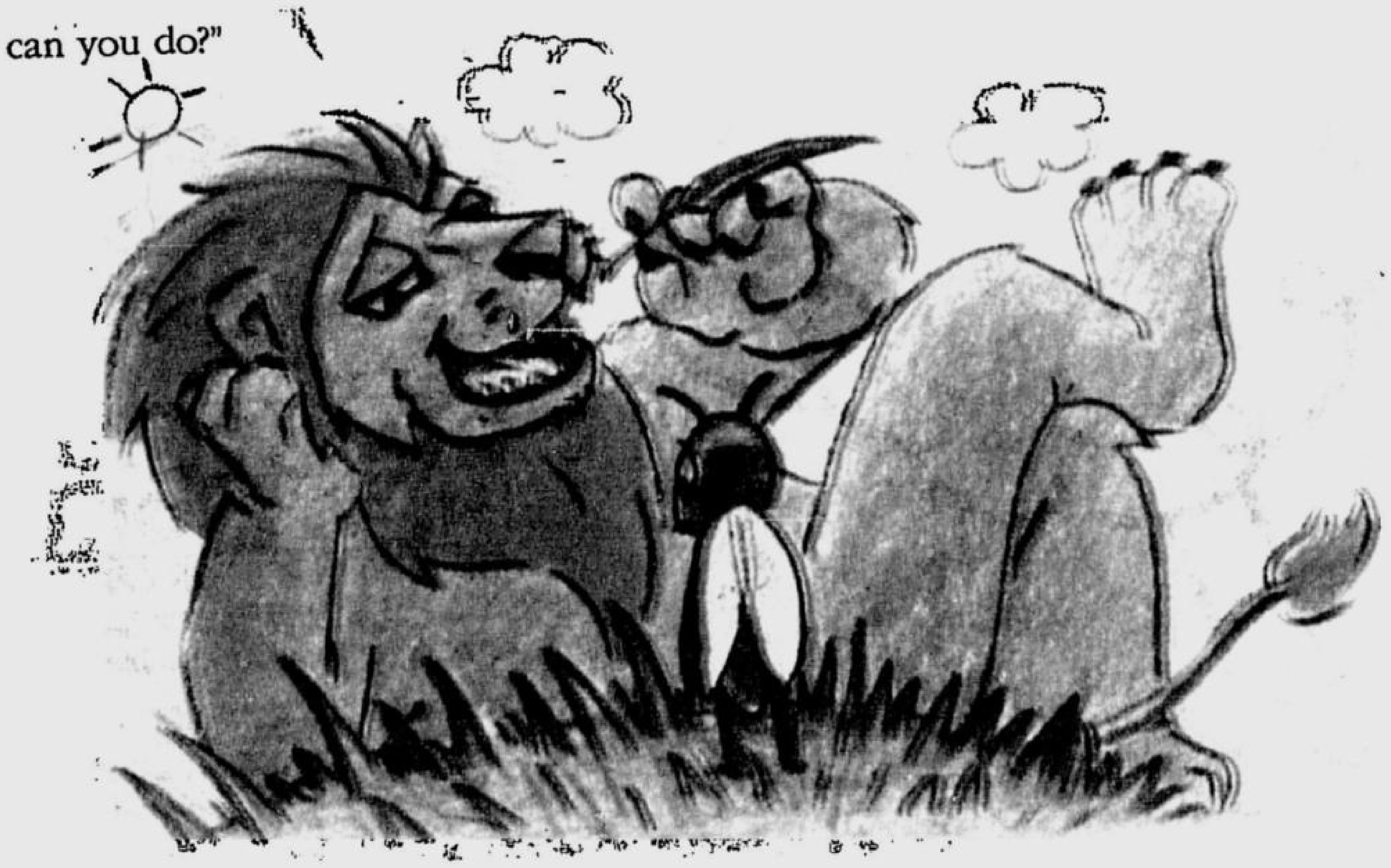
"I have a terrific mane and paws full of sharp nails! I have a muscular physique and a loud intimidating roar! What are you?" he said. "What can you do?"

The beetle thought about this. He knew he could fly, but then not as high as the birds he saw in this bright new world. He was just a bug that was very very tiny, and not all that amazing. So the beetle finally replied: "I don't know. I don't think I can do anything."

"Ah well." The lion said, then walked away, for he did not want to be associated with the uninteresting things of this world.

Undaunted by this brief encounter, the beetle continued his travels. But wherever he flew, he met many creatures who could do many wonderful things.

"I have fantastic teeth!" the crocodile said,



"What do you have?"

"I have a tail and fingers!" the monkey said, "What can you do?"

"My neck is long so I can reach things!" the giraffe said, "What about you?"

"I have a powerful trunk!" the elephant said, "Do you have anything?"

"I'm incredibly cute!" the fat pig smiled, "What can you do?"

Suddenly a light began to seep into the cave, coming toward the animals.

"The moon has found us!" one animal cried.

"No! the stars!" another cried.

"It's the noises coming to get us!" another trembled.

"Could it be the sun?" the pig said, for he was the most optimistic of the group.

FOR

KI

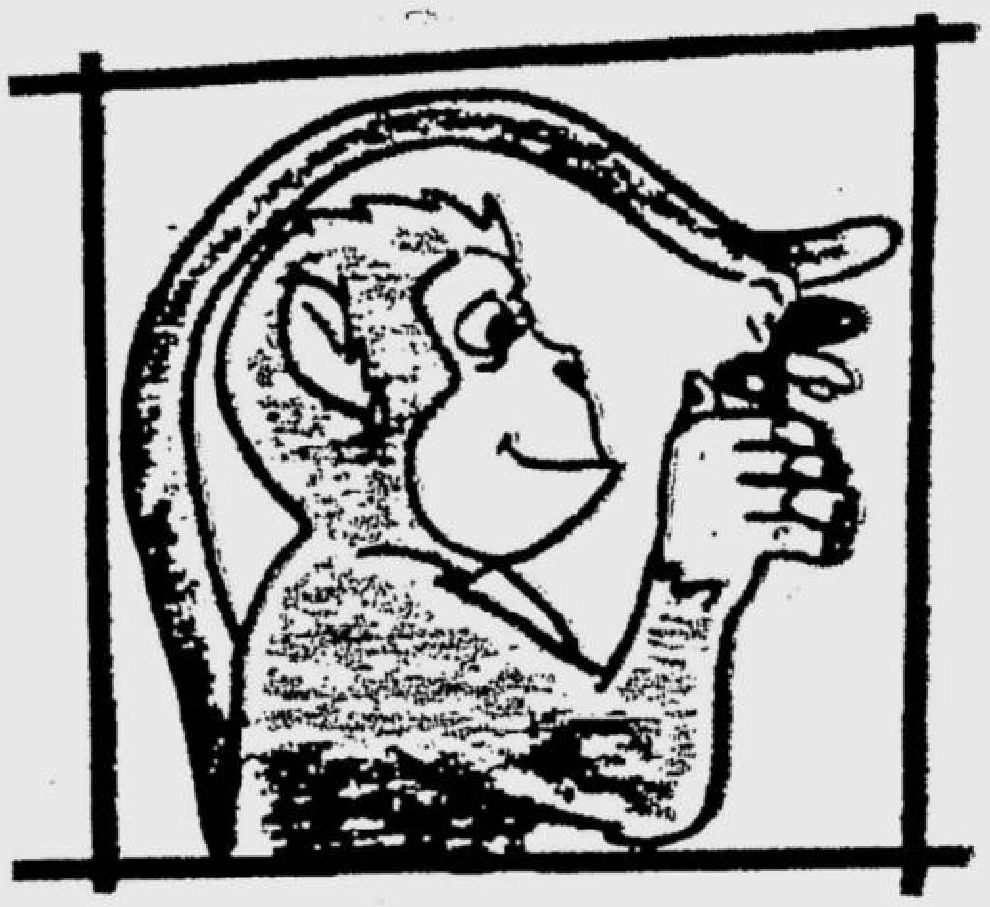
OBERT GUNNAR MAGNUSON

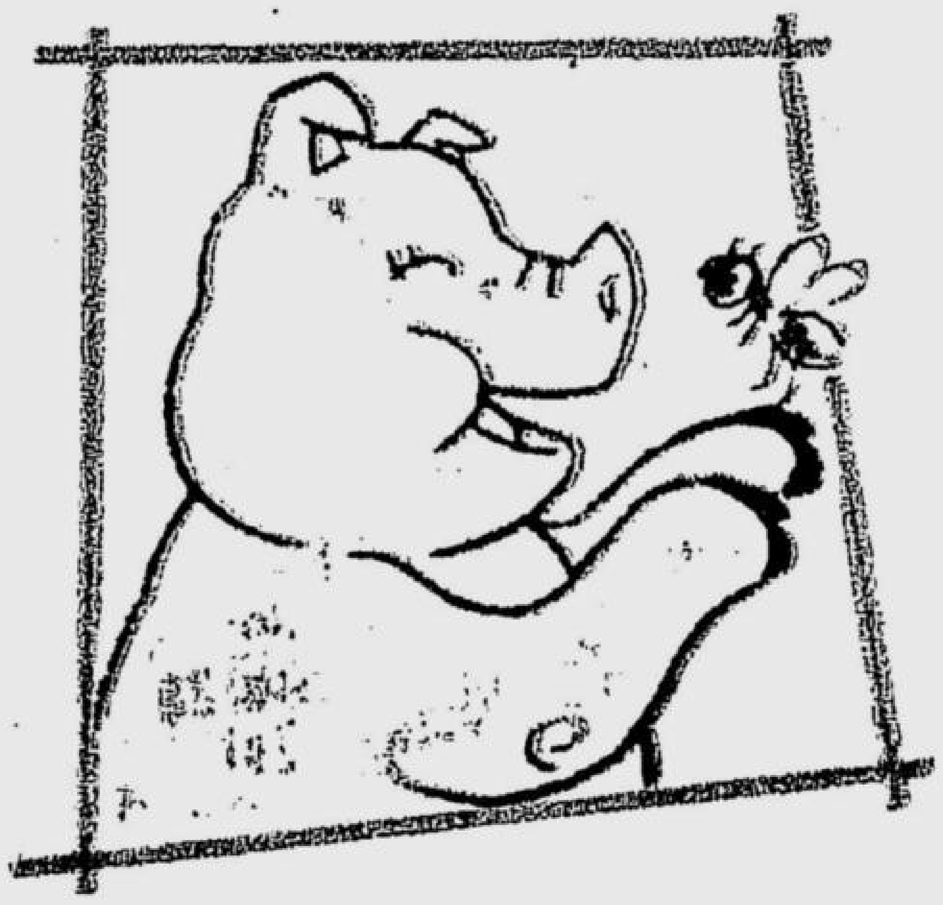
But they all agreed it was not the sun. So they scurried behind some rocks. When the light came closer, the animals were shocked by the sound of a tiny familiar voice:

"Hi there!" said the beetle, "Look at the special thing I can do!" And the animals peered from behind their rocks and saw a most beautiful sight! The tiny beetle flew all around the cave carrying a bright light within his tail! They all gathered around to watch the dazzling creature. So spellbound were they by his wonderful glowing tail that the elephant remarked: "Why, he's a regular Fire-fly!"

All the animals laughed in agreement.

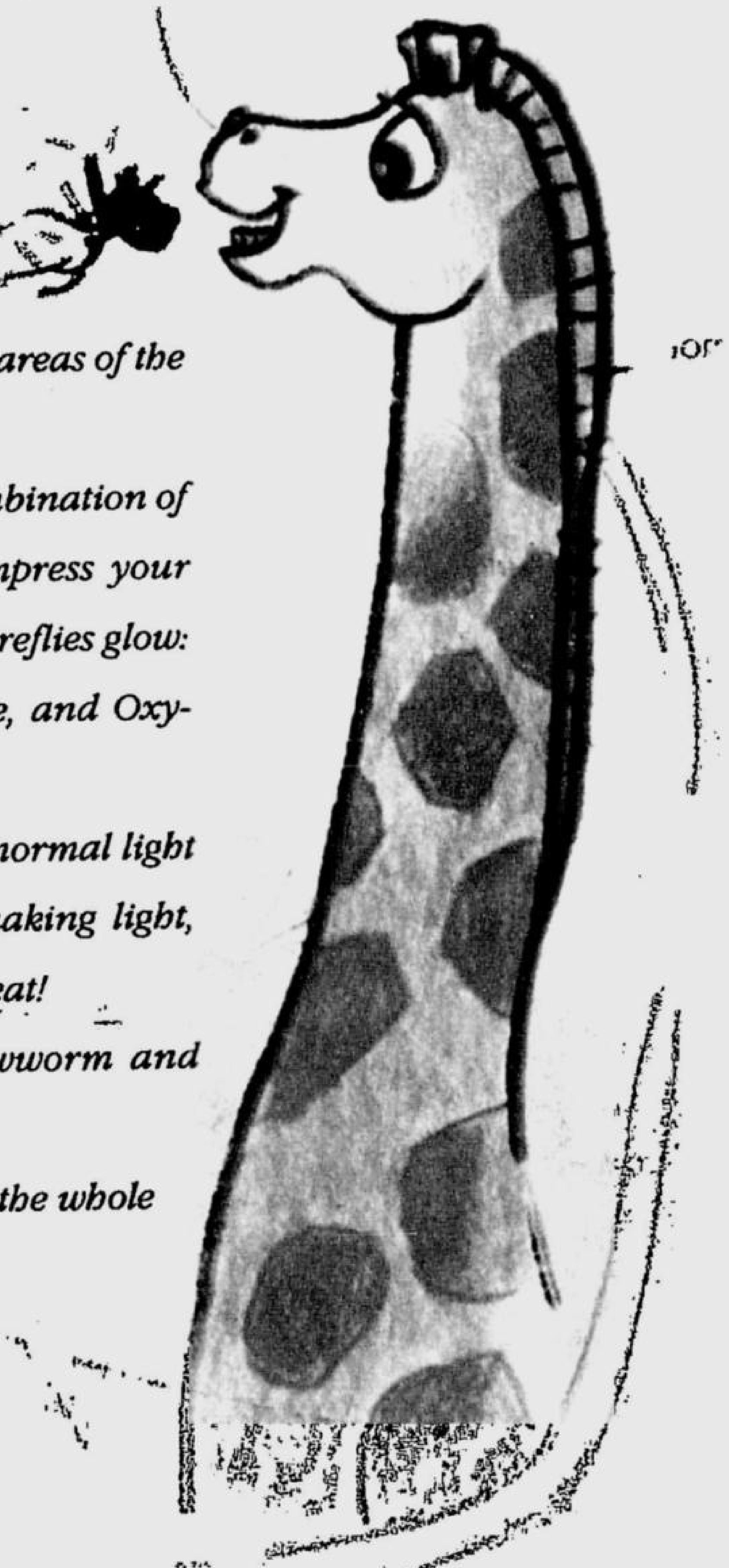
And because of the beetle's newfound light, the animals were no longer afraid of the night. And the tiny beetle, who was eventually called "firefly," never had to feel alone in this bright new world ever again.





Since the first day of the world, we've learned much about the tiny beetle known as the firefly. Here are some helpful facts so you can get to know more about this fascinating animal whose world we share in!

***Robert** is the creator of Shirley's Pets. He is a member of Kuwentista ng mga Tsikiting (Kuting) an organization of writers for children.*



- *Most fireflies are found in warm humid areas of the world.*
- *The light they make is created by the combination of chemicals in their tail. (If you want to impress your friends, here are the ingredients that make fireflies glow: Luciferin, Luciferase, AdenoycneTriphospate, and Oxygen!).*
- *A firefly produces 100 percent light. A normal light bulb spends 10 percent of its energy for making light, while the remaining 90 percent is wasted heat!*
- *The firefly has also been called glowworm and lightning bug!*

There are over 2,000 kinds of fireflies in the whole wide world!

Learn more about your favorite animals at your local library!

He's Gonna RACE ya

Five-year-old Francis Willy sure knows his cars—the really fast ones especially

By Christine C. Rivero

MORE than 20 cars are "parked" on the dining table. Model cars, that is, classy metal-and-plastic replicas of the four-wheeled speedsters vroom-vroom-vrooming through our streets today. When out of nowhere, a red streak springs and skims the table's rim. It's five-year-old super-racer, Francis Willy! And he's got his little finger behind the wheel of his favorite "Indies Ferrari."

"I want to drive a fast car like Schumacher!" Francis reveals brightly, referring to Ferrari-driver and international car racing champ Michael Schumacher. On TV he watches all the big races, not just to see his idol win but also to get an eyeful of all the cool-looking cars. Many of them are in his collection.

Name that car

"That's a Chevrolet Camaro," Francis tells us as we pick up one red-striped white model car. We look underneath the car to check and, sure enough, the name says "Chevrolet Camaro."

We point to another that's sleek and yellow and Francis correctly identifies it as a Porsche. Next, we show him a black bug-shaped vehicle. "Volkswagen," he giggles. It's not a race car but he gets the name right just the same.

Francis can recognize and name lots of other cars that aren't in his collection. On the road, he can tell a Toyota from a Mitsubishi. From a picture in a book, he can point out, "A Lambourghini!" Funny name for a car that isn't common in this country but Francis even pronounces the name properly.

How Francis knows all this is a little amazing since he still doesn't know how to read. "Maybe he recognizes the logos, maybe also the design," his dad guesses.

"And probably because of the traffic," adds his mom, "he really likes looking out the window (of our car.) Then he asks us, 'What's that car? What's that car?'" Once he knows the brand of the car, they say, Francis rarely ever forgets.

Start your engines!

Francis also wants very much to learn how a car works. When his dad is fixing the car, he helps carry around the tools. After racing his model cars, sometimes he flips them over or pokes at their engine. "I want to see the wheel turn," he says, closely inspecting the tiny mechanical parts.

Once, their car broke down and Francis' mom had to go down to check the engine then go back in and start the car. She had to do this several times. Concerned, Francis later said to her, "I want to know how to start the car so I can help you."

He's still too young for that, of course, but we think what he said was real sweet.

Right now, Francis is one of the top three students in his class at Aquinas School in San Juan. Years from now, we wonder, will he really become a race car driver? Who knows, with his love of cars, he might even end up designing a super racecar of his own. From the tabletop that he's turned into a race track, Francis only looks at us and smiles.

NAME THAT CAR. Francis grins proudly from behind his toy car collection.

R U RRIFIC?

'Rrific kids are smart
'Rrific kids are fun
Some aren't in the honors list
But get their homework done

Somehow the world's
a better place
I know this much is true
Hey 'Rrific kid!
We know you're there
We love you 'cause you're you!

If you think you're 'Rriffic' or know someone who is, fill out the nomination form below and send it to:.

Junior Inquirer
'KIDS'R'RRIFIC' Page
Phil. Daily Inquirer, Chino Roces cor.
Yague & Mascardo Sts.
1231 Makati City

Chosen nominees will be featured on this page and will get a free Junior Inquirer T-shirt!

Kids'r'rrific nomination form

I nominate: ____________________

Age: ________

I think she's/he's 'Rrific because:
(Here's a tip! Write a detailed description of a good deed, project or accomplishment by your nominee.)
____
____
____
____
____

She/he lives at
____
____

and studies at
____

Her/his contact number is:
____

Sender's Name: ____________________

Sender's Age & School: ____________________

Sender's Address: ____________________
____

Sender's Contact No. ____________________

Comics Dude

Writer-illustrator Arnold Arre explains why he really, totally, absolutely HAD to go into comics

ARNOLD hangs out beside a life-stize display of his characters

A COMICS dude wakes up one day wanting very badly to do two things—1) draw and 2) write a story. "When I was a kid, I knew what I wanted to do," says 29-year-old comics dude Arnold Arre. "I wanted to draw, that's for sure."

Then while working as an artist at an ad agency, Arnold realized, "There were tons of stories inside me that I couldn't really show through advertising." Several splashes of ink on white paper later, Arnold decided to create his own comic books.

Catch an *engkanto*, become an all-Pinoy hero

"If you really love comics, there's no way you can stay away from them," Arnold begins. It all started way back when he was 7 years old.

"I kinda stole comics from my brother," he admits, wincing. While he was doing this veeerrrry bad thing (you know you shouldn't take things without permission, Arnold! hehe), Arnold ended up reading the comic books. "It wasn't anything like reading a book," he recalls, "it wasn't anything like watching a movie either. It was somewhere in between really a mixture of the two!"

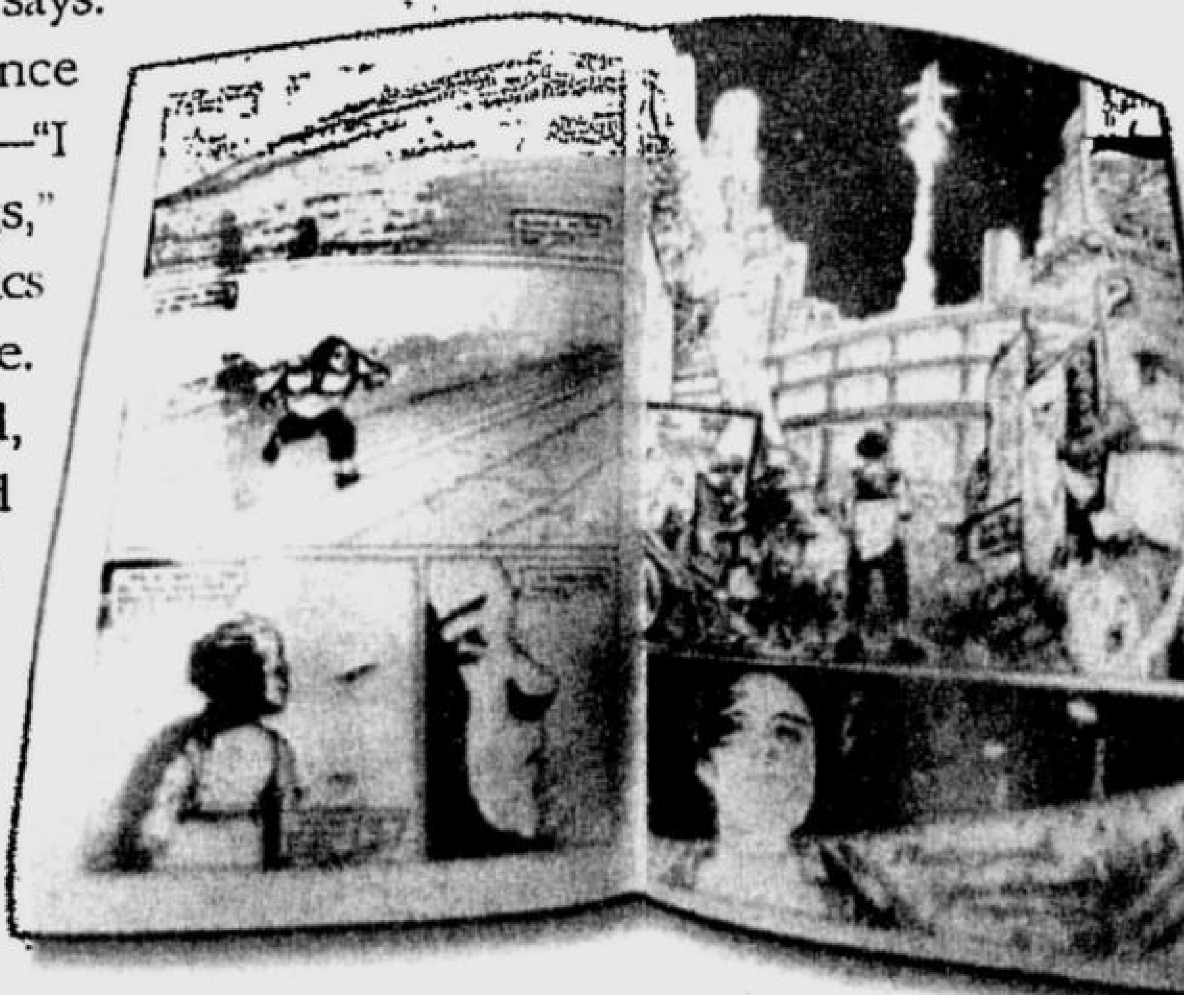
From then on, Arnold was hooked. "I started making my own comic books," he says. He enjoyed fantasy, science fiction and happy endings—"I love doing happy endings," Arnold chortles—so his comics featured all of that and more.

"Even when I was a kid, if I tried to do sci-fi, I would try to introduce a Filipino character," he explains, "like a guy who used to drive a jeepney is now riding a spaceship. Something like that."

Arnold never lost that "Filipino feel" in all his comic book stories. In fact, his first big comic book, Mythology Class, had a *barkada* of Pinoy college students working to save the country from rogue *engkantos* and a mean, mean bunch of *aswangs.* Know what? Mythology Class won an award for "Best Comic Book" in last year's National Book Awards.

"It's nationalistic in a way," says Arnold, "but I also wanted people to be comfortable with my stories to be themselves and prettymuch enjoy what they read."

Christine C. Rivero



CHECK OUT Arnold's work

Do you know a grown-up who

- is fun to be with
- has an exciting job
- keeps an amazing hobby
- is all of the above???

If you know a grown-up whom all kids will love, give him or her the stamp:

A.K.A. COOL

Just fill out the nomination form below and tell us why your fave grown-up is the absolute coolest. If your nominee is chosen, ***YOU'LL*** *get a free JI T-shirt! Now that's really cool.*

A.K.A. COOL
is an 'adult known as cool'
They're the folks
in our own family
Or the people
we meet in school.

I nominate ____________________.
He/She is ____ years old and is my ____________________.
Here are five super solid reasons why I think you should write about him/her:
1)____________________;
2)____________________;
3)____________________;
4)____________________;
and
5)____________________.

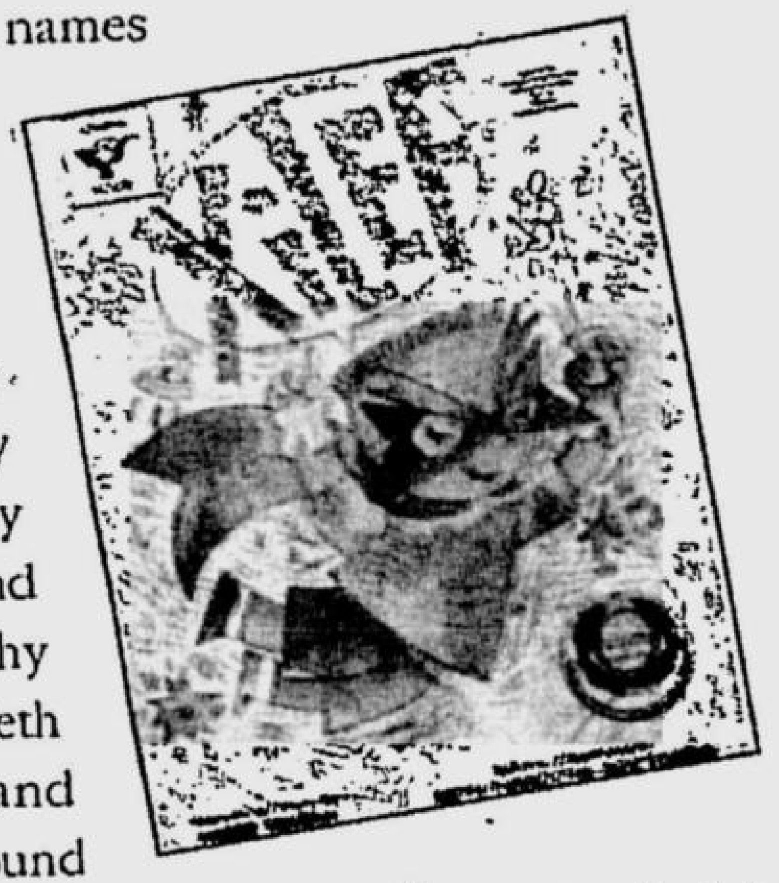
My nominee lives at ____________________.
Give him/her a call at ____________________ or send him/her an e-mail at ____________________.
By the way, I'm ____________________.
I'm ______ years old.
My address is ____________________.
You may call me at ____________________.

Zoom in on 'XILEF'

Iggy Ipis
BOOK REVIEWS

"XILEF"—what a strange title for a strange story by Augie Rivera. But mix up these letters, X-I-L-E-F, and you get the word X-FILE. Have you ever seen an X-FILES episode, where strange things always happen? Well, the boy in XILEF certainly lives a very X-FILES sort of life. He thinks the people all around him are aliens, like Ma'am Venus, his teacher with the six toes on one foot, and Miss Maya, his tutor with the long fingers and sharp ears!

Nobody will believe him, of course. After all, his classmates think that HE's the alien. He's the only one in his class who doesn't know how to spell and read words. When he reads out loud, he sounds very funny and weird, like he came from another planet: "S-sooh, the wagical abarna dirb..." You see? His classmates laugh at him and call him names like *dumb* and *stupid.*



The boy himself tells us what the problem is, what nobody else seems to see. It's the fault of the letters on the page! Every time he looks at them, they start to dance and fly and dart all over the place! Why don't you zoom in on Beth Parrocha-Doctolero's and experience those run-around letters for yourself? They're lively and funny and colorful, but they're also very naughty. If you can read them, then you're lucky. All the boy can do is fight them off with his mask and imaginary laser sword, and blasting the letters doesn't make him do any better in his lessons. His classmates just keep finding him even more different.

That's what Augie Rivera's story is all about, finally. More than being about dyslexia (a strange word you can look up at the back of the book, right after the story), this book is about being different. As the boy realizes, being different actually means being like anybody else who has a hard time learning how to do one thing or another—ride the bike, play computer games, answer math problems. For the boy in XILEF, he has a hard time reading the words because the letters get all jumbled up when he looks at them. The word, XILEF, for example, is actually a jumbled up reading of his name (can you guess what it is?)!

Being different means being interesting and *out of this world!* as Beth Parrocha-Doctolero's illustrations proves. She is able to zap us into the boy's confusion, and into his imagination, so that we understand how he sees the world around him—strange, scary, exciting, and different. Isn't that how we sometimes see the world too?

"XILEF" is published by Adarna House (2000) together with Wordlab and the Philippine Dyslexia Foundation.

¿ThinkathoN?

BY BONG BARRAMEDA

SPACE SIGHTS

YOU'RE an astronaut on a sight-seeing tour of the solar system and beyond. Can you correctly identify each of the 10 heavenly bodies and man-made objects appearing in your itinerary? Score 2 pts. per number if you can without looking at the corresponding clue down below; 1 point if you did.

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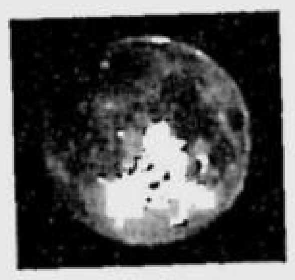

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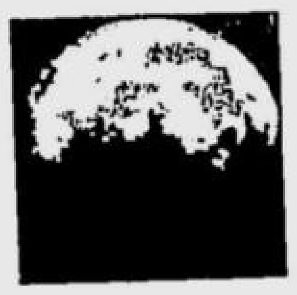

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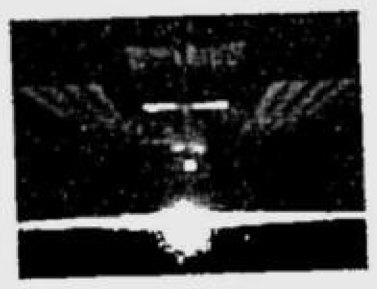

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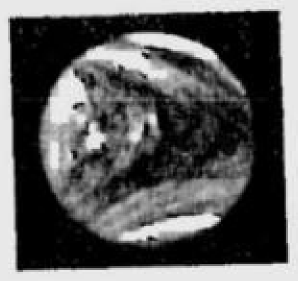

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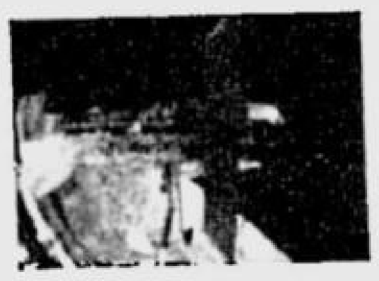

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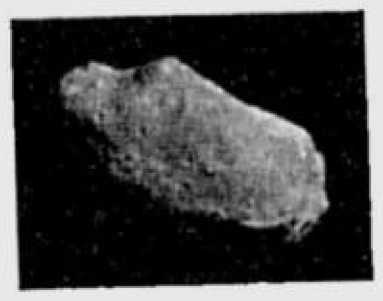

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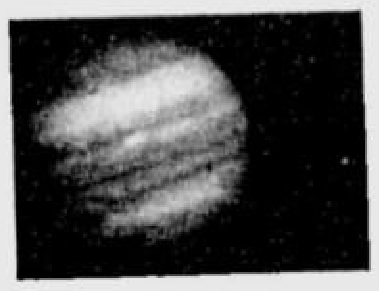

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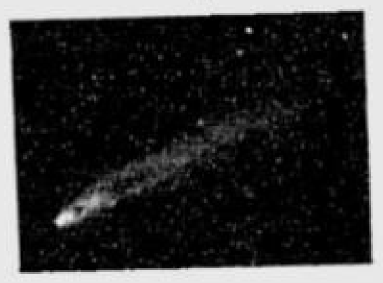

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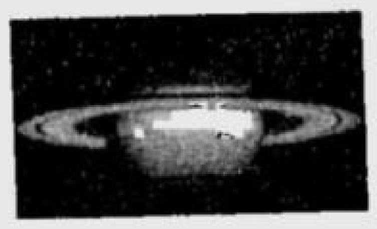

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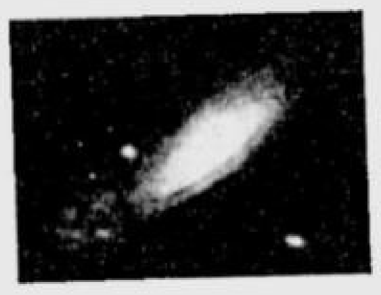


Clues:

1. Earth's nearest neighbor
2. Red Planet
3. Most expensive international space project ever
4. Nicknamed the Evening Star (though it's not a star)
5. Big far-out telescope
6. 'Villain' in the film *Armageddon*
7. King-size planet
8. Literally means "long-haired"
9. It's name "rings" a bell
10. Perhaps the most famous galaxy outside the Milky Way

Answers:

1. Moon
2. Mars
3. International Space Station
4. Venus
5. Hubble Space Telescope
6. Asteroid
8. Comet
7. Jupiter
9. Saturn
10. Andromeda

Ratings:

superbrain!
18 - 20

excellent!
14 - 17

good!
8 - 13

Choir Boy Chronicles

(from page5)

WE WANT CHOCOLATES! "Buy Me Chocolate" as performed by the Ateneo Boy's Choir is a hit with the audience.

Photos by BETOY JOHNSON

That meant the show was about to start. My heart started pumping faster, too. I was going to be on stage in front of a large crowd. We were the first choir to perform too, so I was doubly nervous. We all formed a circle and said a prayer before we went on stage and that really lifted our spirits a little bit in the midst of all the pressure. Phew!

Walking silently, we made our way to the stage. I saw my mom and dad seated on the middle seats of the third row. I also saw our school Headmaster, Fr. Antonio C. Pabayo with other teachers. My smile widened as I saw them. It felt good to see people I knew.

When our conductress, Mrs. Jocelyn Gonzales, and pianist Mrs. Zenaida Xavier also went up, the crowd burst into a round of applause.

We sang "Cantate Domino," "Gloria Festiva," "The Prayer" (made popular by Andrea Bocelli and Celine Dion), "Tell all the World About Love" "Buy me Chocolate."

The last song was really funny because all of us were supposed to make faces and throw tantrums on stage, and it made the whole audience ring with laughter. Really, I thought afterward, as we went up to watch the next choir, it wasn't so bad after you've finished.

The other choirs performed pretty well, some used ethnic gongs (St. Scholastica) and native hats (Woodrose).

But the best thing of all was the finale, the Grand Choir performance. Everyone seemed to have felt the song we sang, the whole thing was incredibly harmonic and after that last song "Ako'y Munting Tinig" the whole theater shook with applause. I heard someone shout "bravo" and I thought it must have been my Dad. But I saw that a lot of people gave us a standing ovation. When we all went backstage, everyone was shouting. Great! We did it!

GOING NATIVE. *Malongs* and ethnic instruments blend well with the St. Scholasticans' voices.

Saying good-bye and looking back

As my mom, dad, brother and *yaya* came to meet me, there was a strange longing in me, like I wanted to do it all over again. It was just that I felt once more the similar feeling in EDSA II, where children, youth and adults all joined as one singing and dancing to bring out their message. We in the choirs sang to promote peace and unity among people, while EDSA II called for change in leadership. Both great, big things, indeed and incredibly fascinating, liberating!! '

What the other choirs say...

"Since January 2, we have been rehearsing everyday, and when the concert came and we sang together, it was very challenging, and we really felt relaxed when we were finished." ***–Ms Dolores C. Cleofas, conductress, Bagong Silangan Children's Choir***

"We started preparing on the second week of January, and I think we really did well, and I'm proud that despite the few rehearsals, we were able to perform well. Of course, before our performance we were very nervous." ***–Jessieryl Agraviador, conductor, Immaculate Conception Parish School Choir, Cubao***

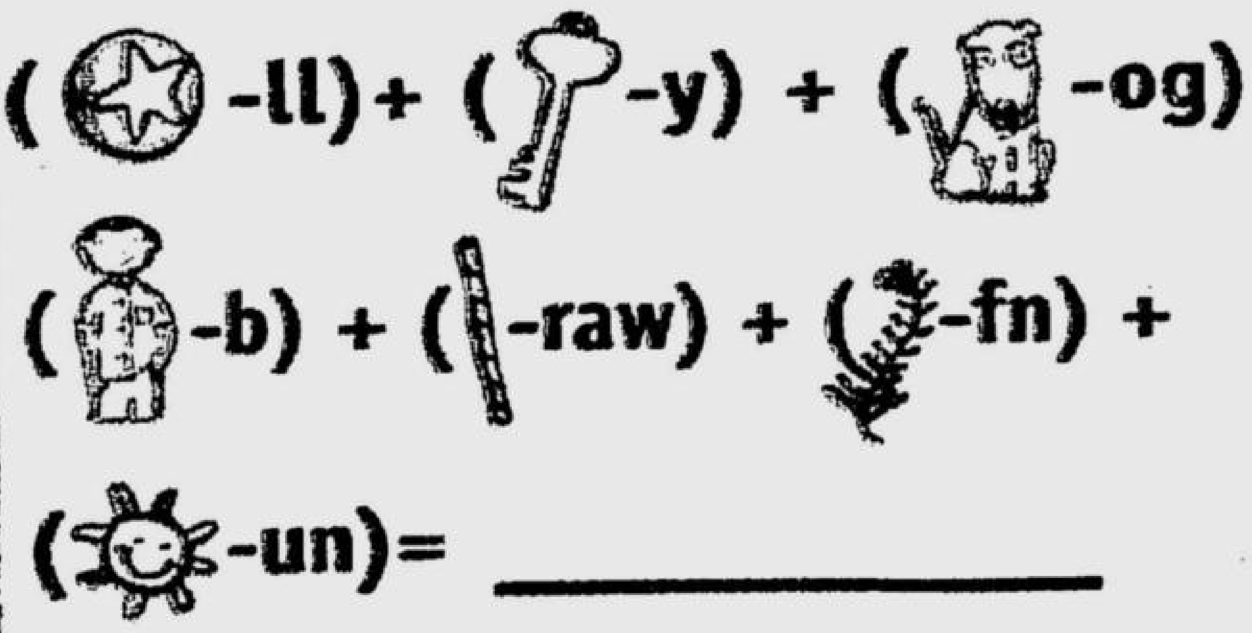
"The St. Scho Choir practiced the songs since last year, so the performance didn't give us too much trouble. And it turned out quite okay and a bit of fun, because while we were waiting for our turn we were just retouching our make-up!"***–Kasey Papica, St. Scholastica's College***

THE LUNCH BOX

by Katrina B. Villa

WORDMATH

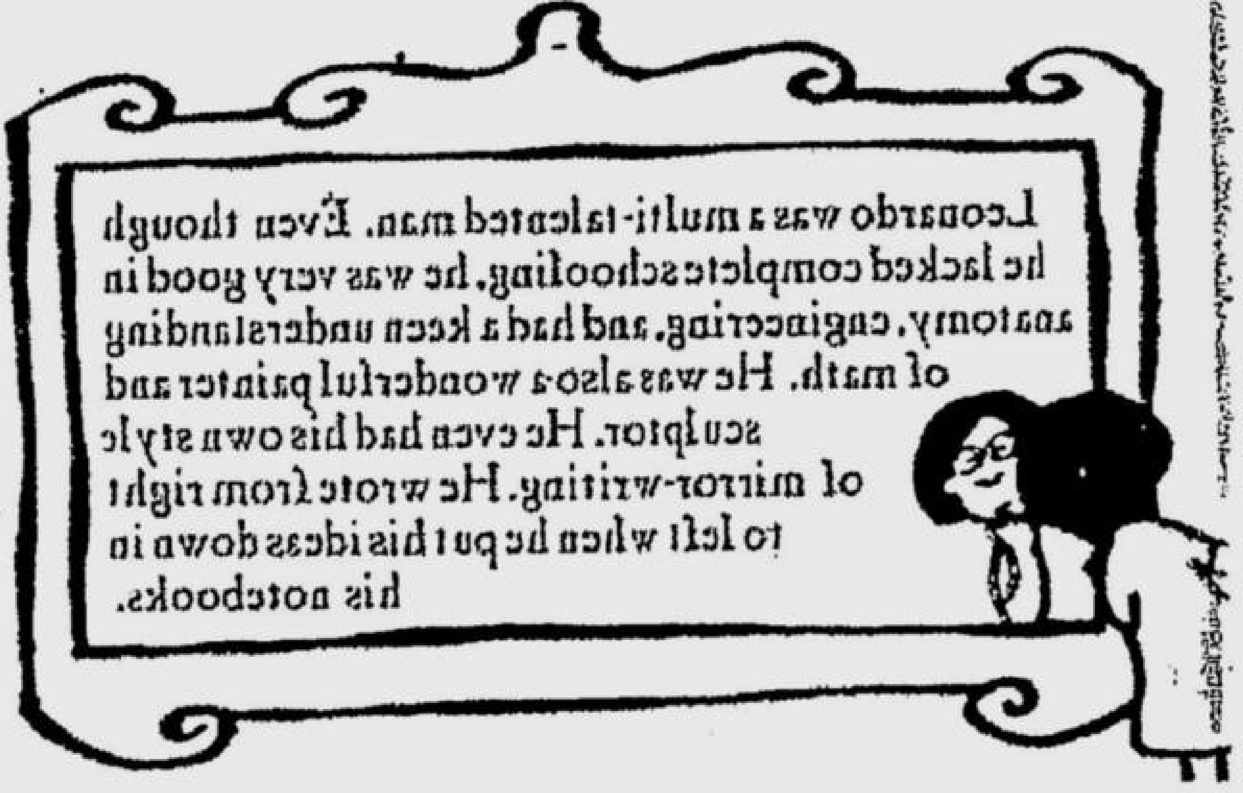
John is with his sister Joan at the Annual Math Lovers' Dinner.
Help him solve the word equation to find out what's on the menu.
And please hurry, because he's quite hungry.



Hey, LEONARDO!

Self-portrait, Leonardo da Vinci (1452-1519)

Leonardo da Vinci was an Italian artist, scientist and inventor from the 15th century. Because he was so talented in many different things, he was known during his time as a Universal Man.



Leonardo was a multi-talented man. Even though he lacked complete schooling, he was very good in anatomy, engineering, and had a keen understanding of math. He was also a wonderful painter and sculptor. He even had his own style of mirror-writing. He wrote from right to left when he put his ideas down in his notebooks.

Hold this up in front of a mirror to decode the secret message!

BLANK OUT!

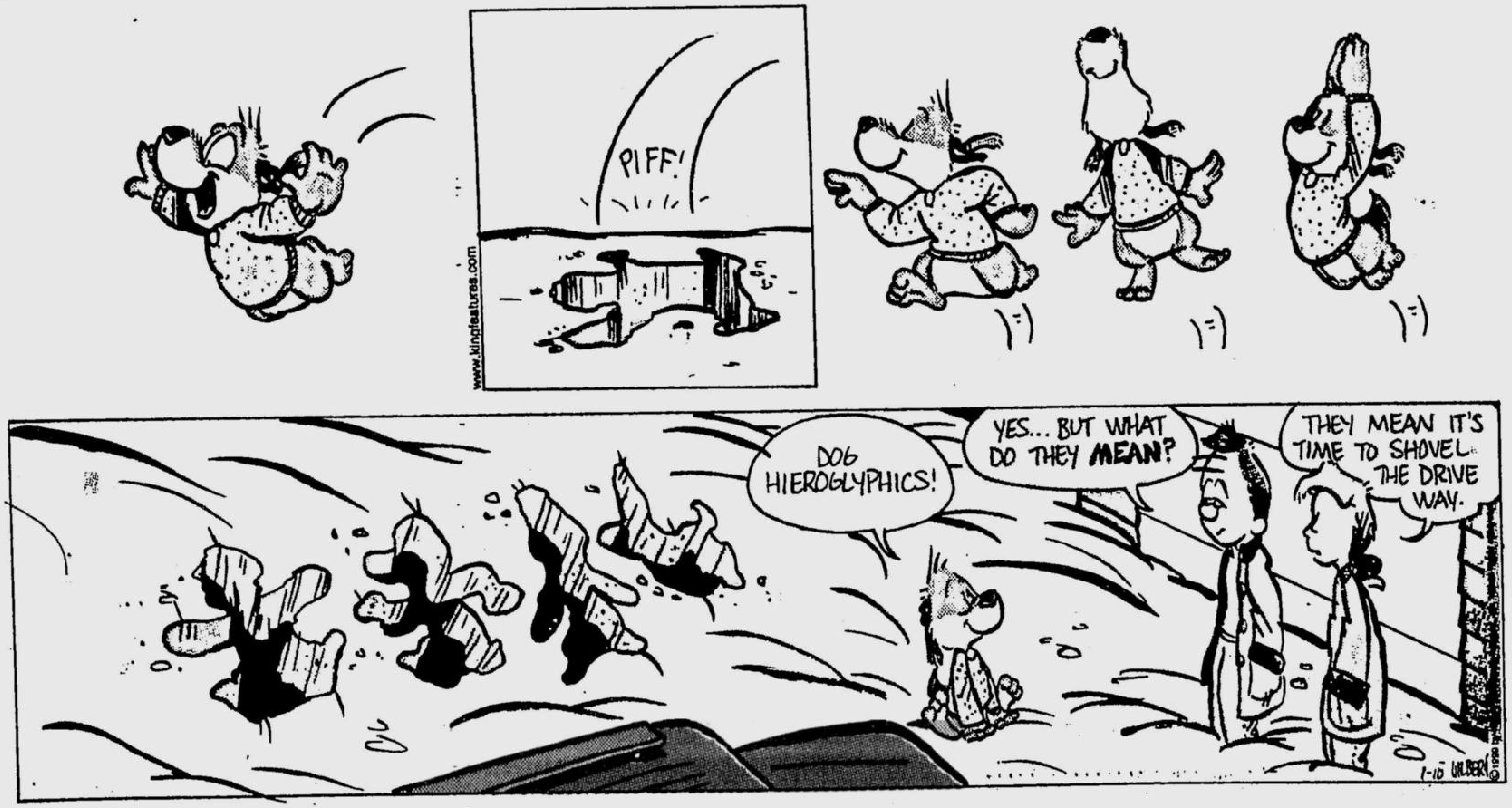
WITHOUT FIRST READING THE PARAGRAPH ALOUD ASK A FRIEND TO SUPPLY YOU WITH THE MISSING WORDS.

HOW TO DANCE THE ________ ________
ADJECTIVE NOUN

First, you'll need a partner. Take his or her ________ and ________
NOUN VERB
to the left. Then turn around ____ times while you ________ your
NUMBER VERB
________ above your head. ________ ____ times while your partner
NOUN VERB NUMBER
goes to the ________. Don't forget to ________ to the music.
PLACE VERB
Next, walk ____ steps backward until you ________ your
NUMBER VERB
partner. Put your ________ on your partner's ________
NOUN NOUN
and shout ________! Repeat the sequence ____ times.
EXPRESSION NUMBER
This dance is best done in ________. Your friends will
PLACE
think you're really ________!
ADJECTIVE

BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT


PIFF!
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DOG HIEROGLYPHICS!
YES... BUT WHAT DO THEY MEAN?
THEY MEAN IT'S TIME TO SHOVEL THE DRIVE WAY.
1-10 GILBERT